



SEAN MURPHY WITH MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

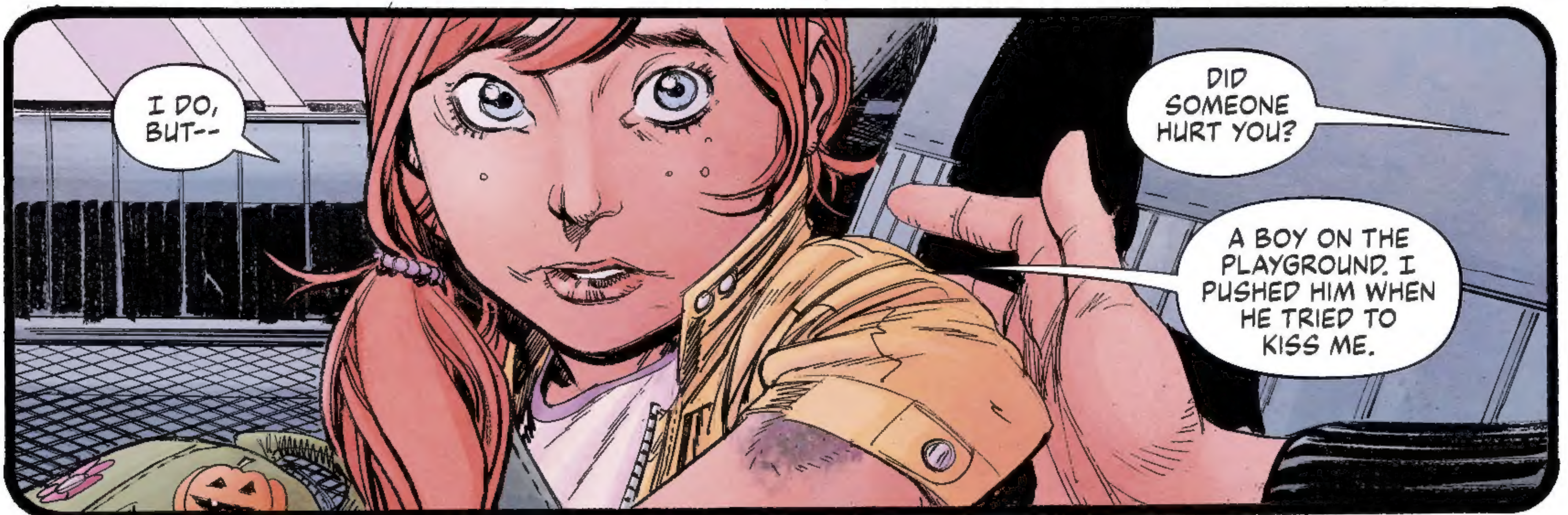
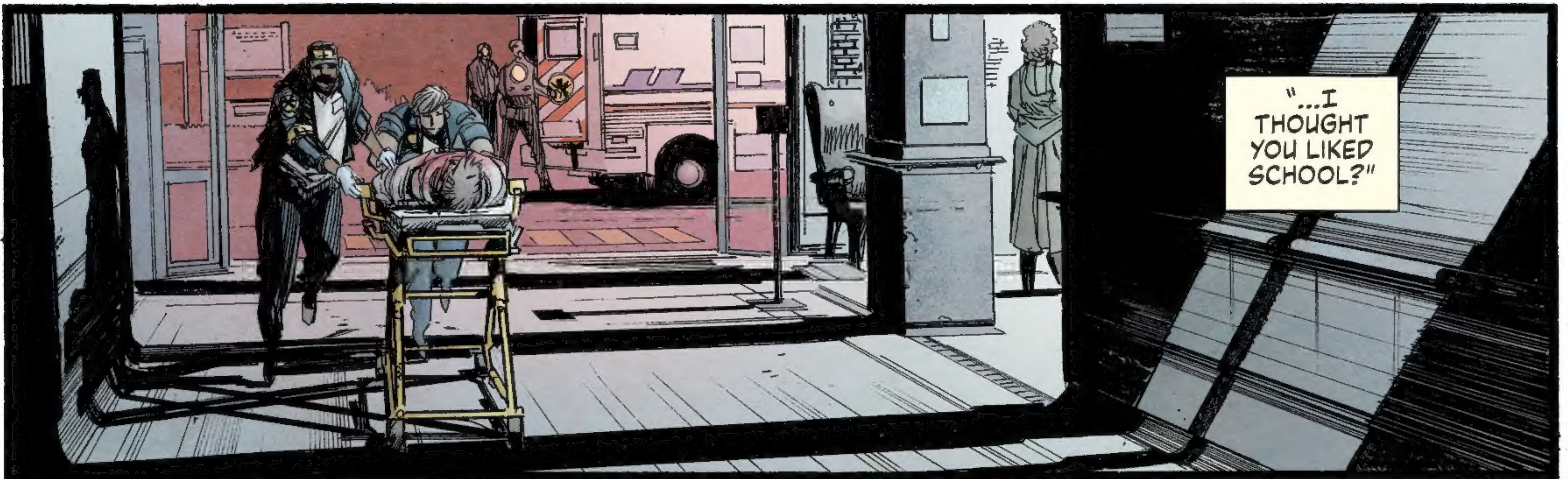
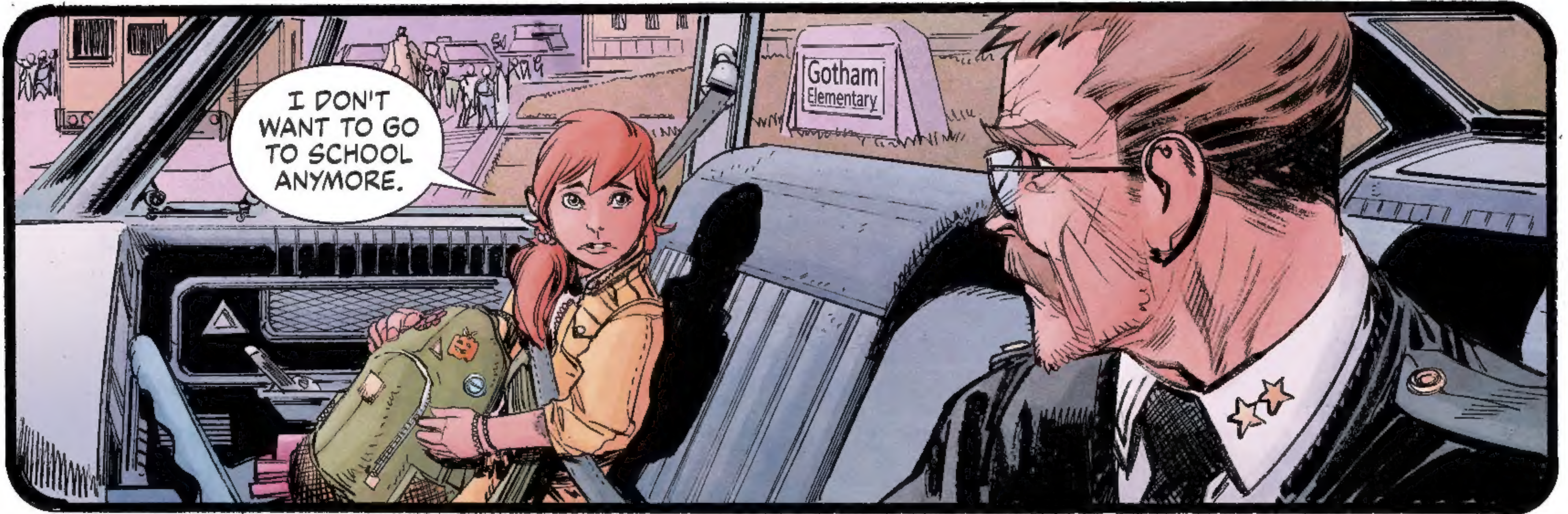
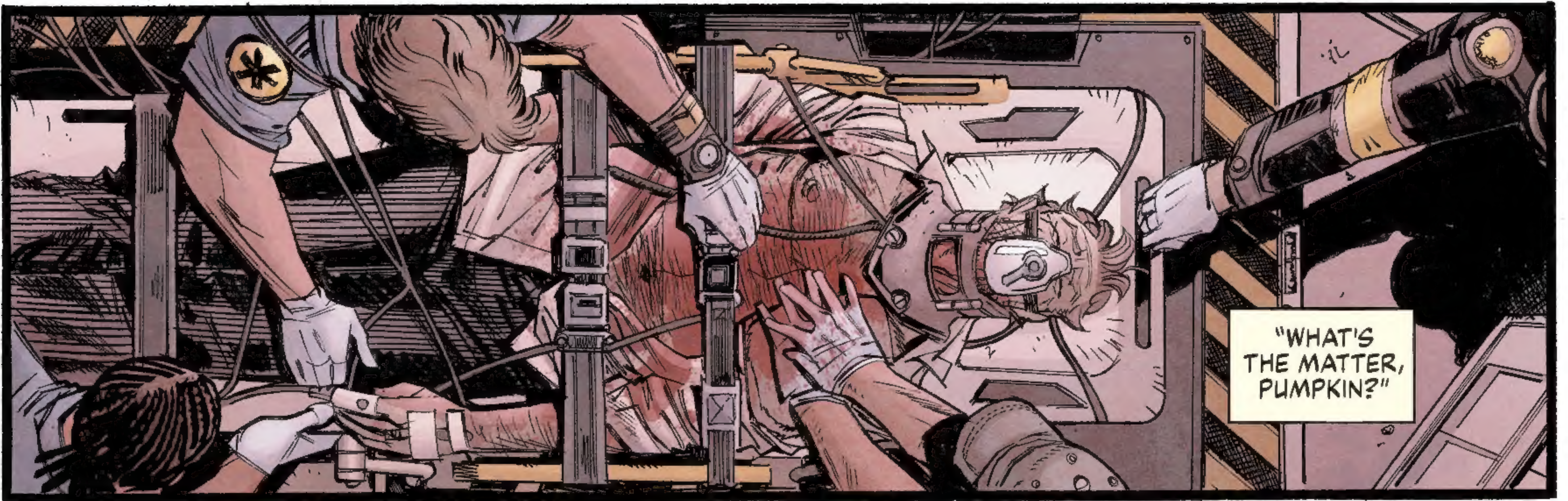
BATMAN

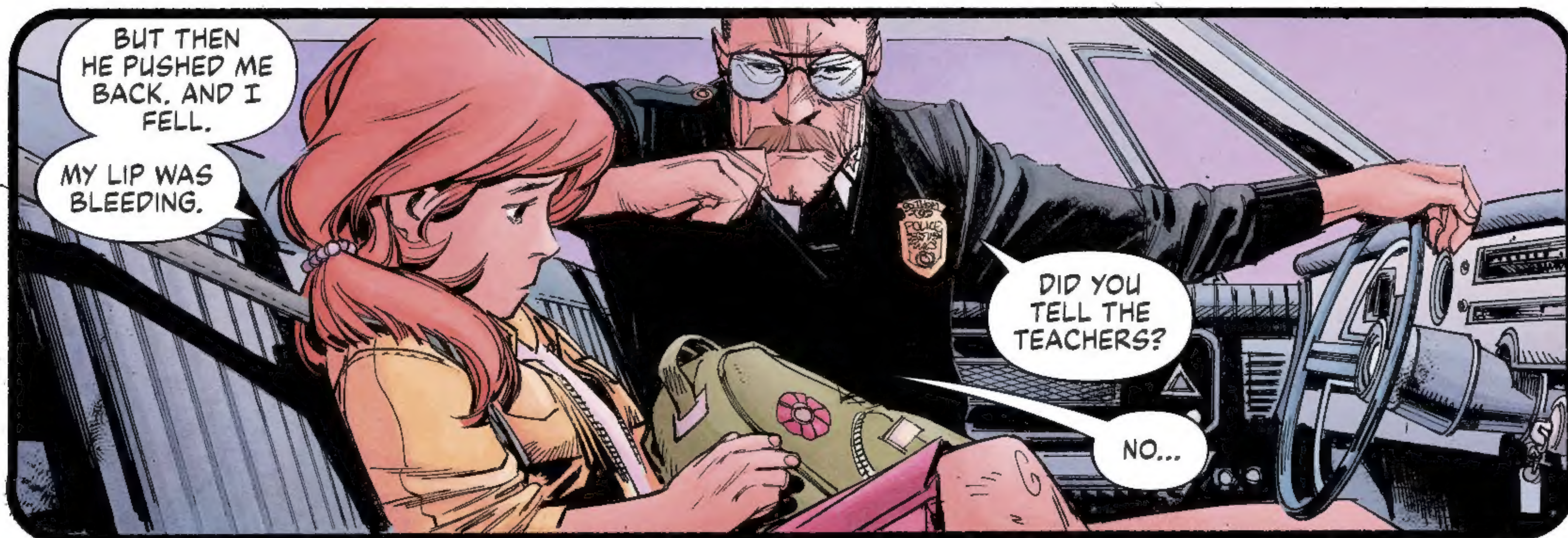
CURSE OF THE

WHITE KNIGHT

BOOK FOUR

BATMAN
CURSE OF THE
WHITE KNIGHT
BOOK FOUR





BUT THEN HE PUSHED ME BACK, AND I FELL.

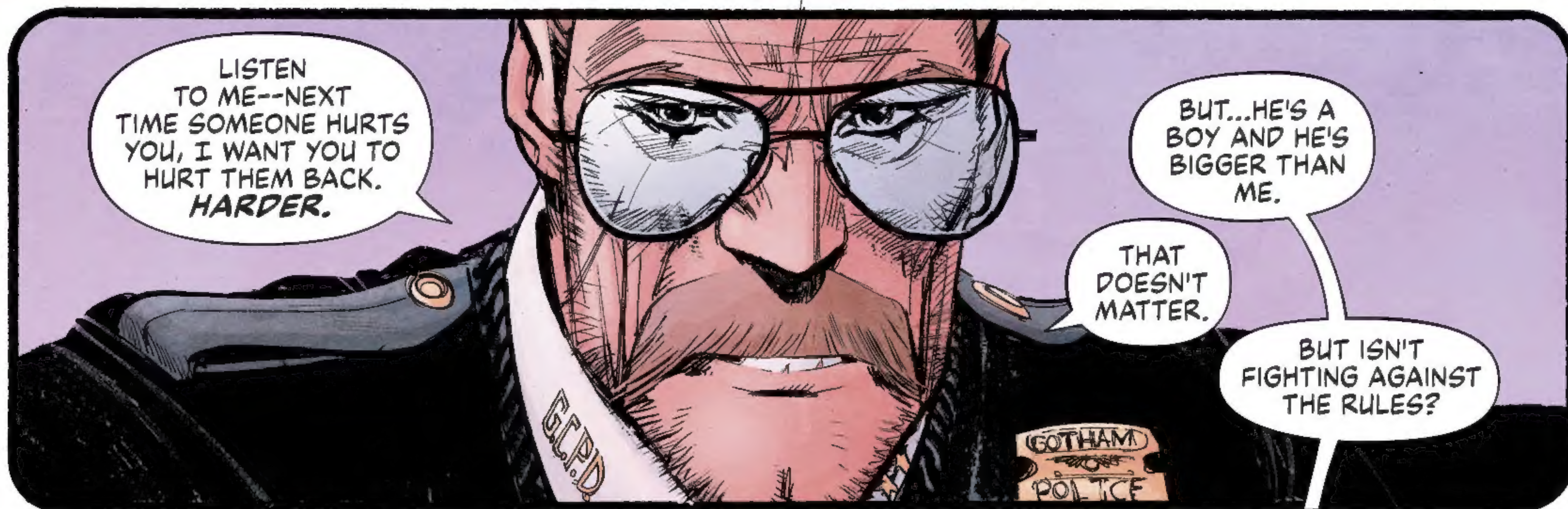
MY LIP WAS BLEEDING.

DID YOU TELL THE TEACHERS?

NO...



"...I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO GET INTO TROUBLE."

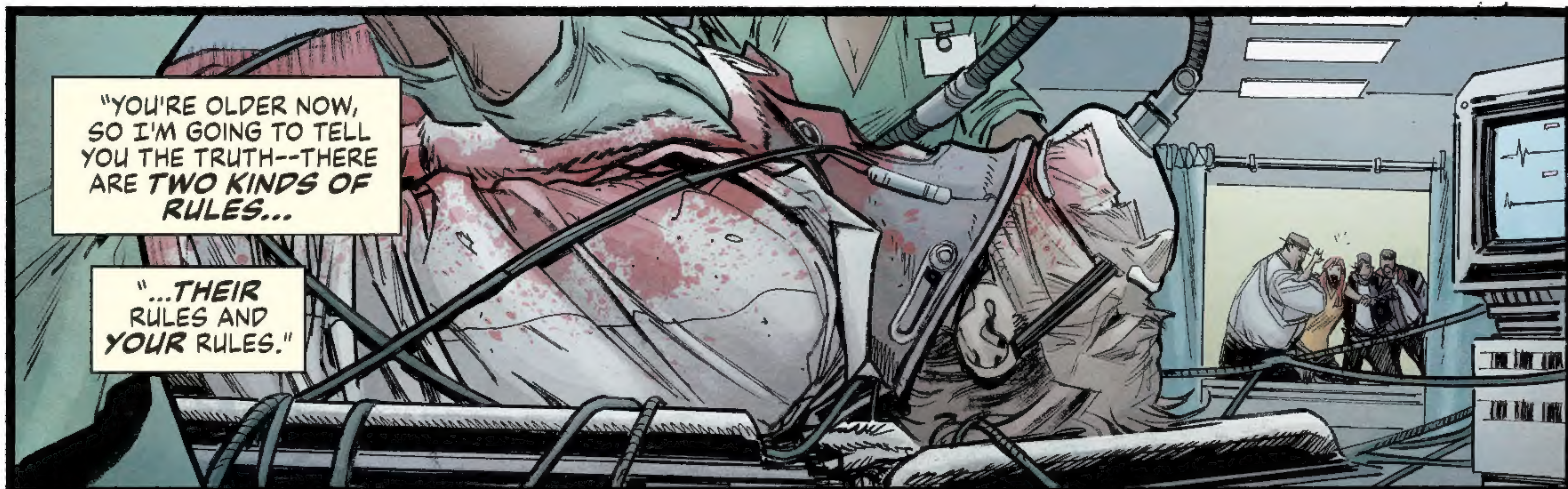


LISTEN TO ME--NEXT TIME SOMEONE HURTS YOU, I WANT YOU TO HURT THEM BACK. **HARDER.**

BUT...HE'S A BOY AND HE'S BIGGER THAN ME.

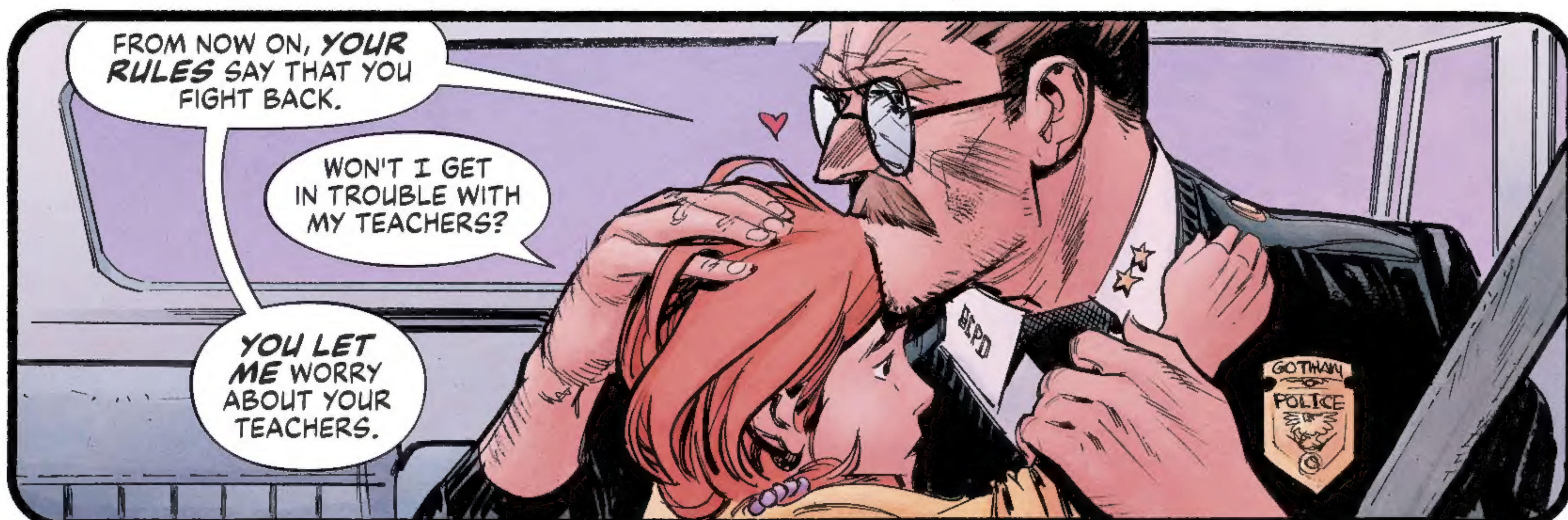
THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

BUT ISN'T FIGHTING AGAINST THE RULES?



"YOU'RE OLDER NOW, SO I'M GOING TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH--THERE ARE **TWO KINDS OF RULES...**

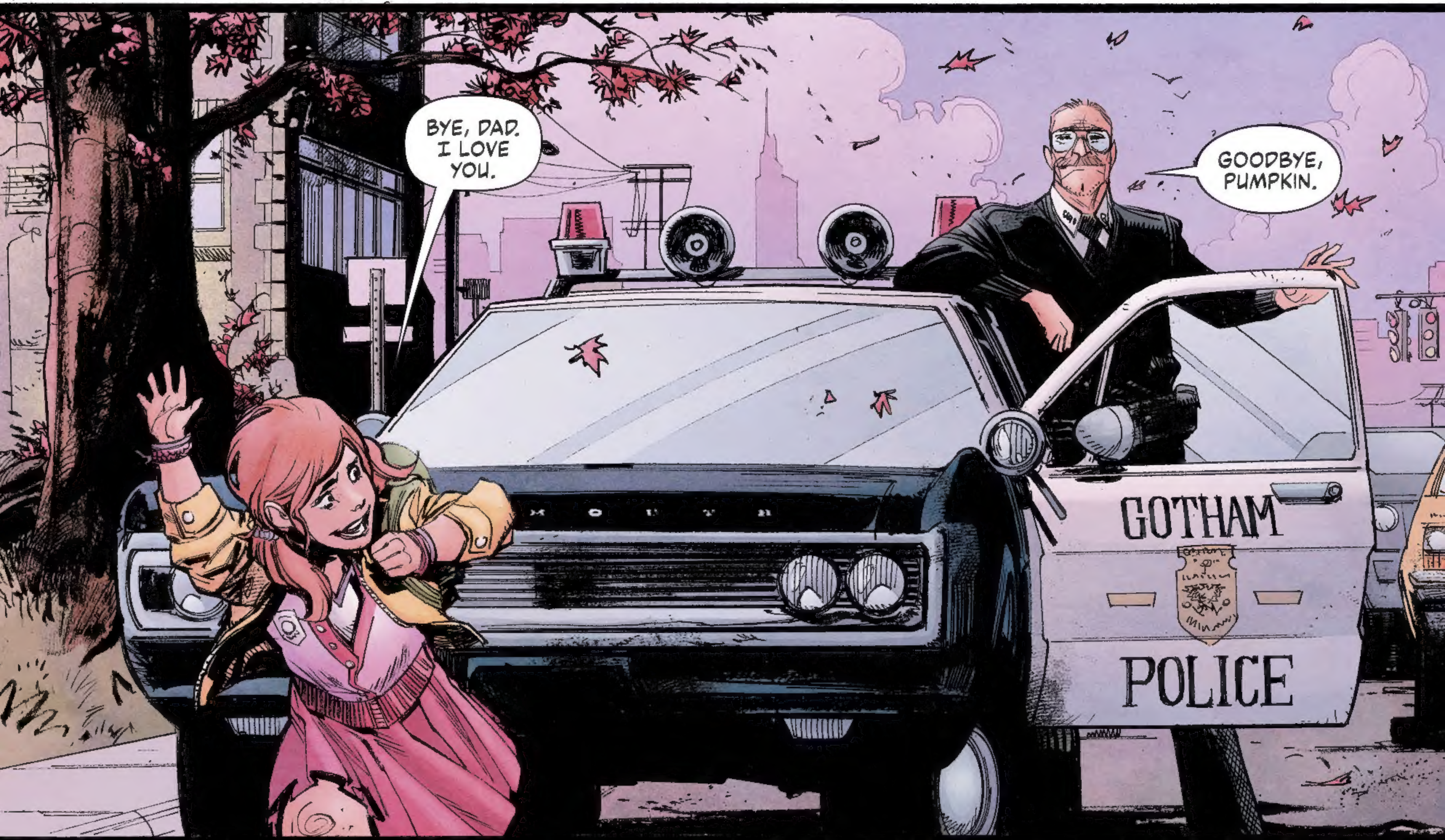
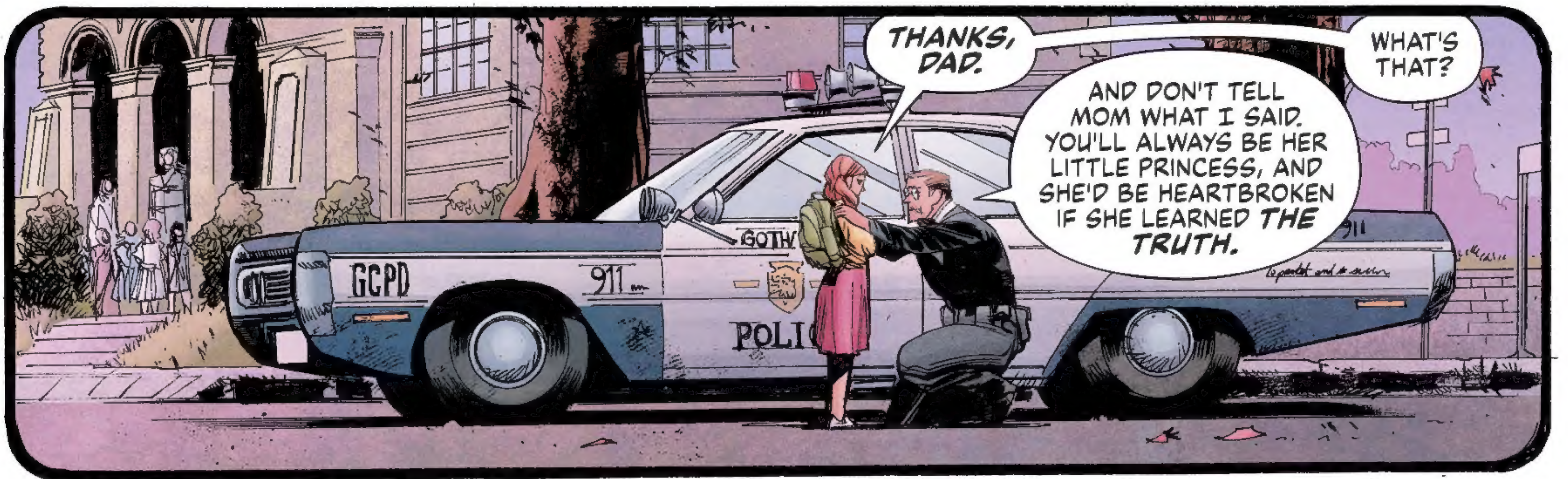
"...THEIR RULES AND **YOUR RULES.**"

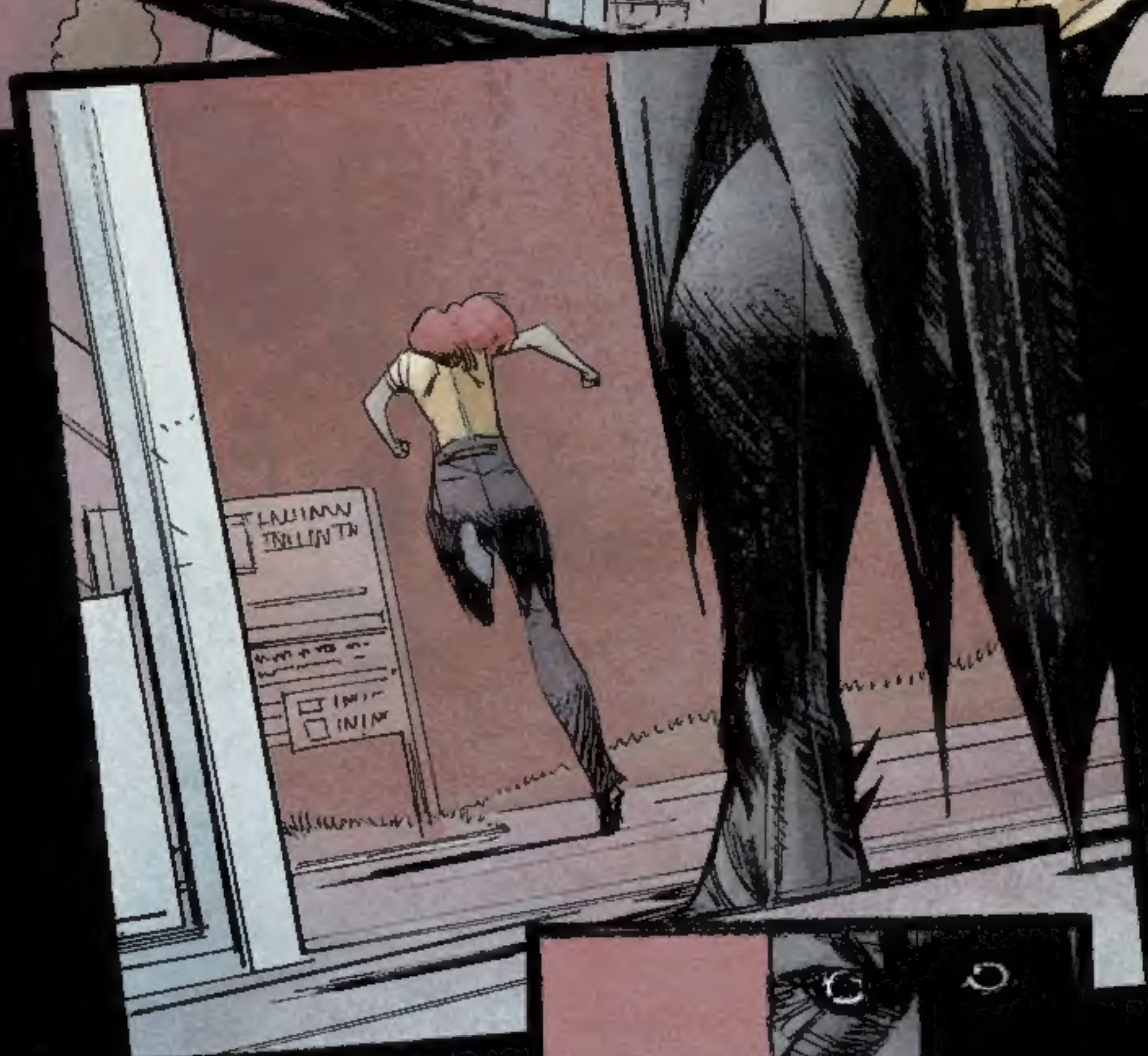


FROM NOW ON, **YOUR RULES** SAY THAT YOU FIGHT BACK.

WON'T I GET IN TROUBLE WITH MY TEACHERS?

YOU LET ME WORRY ABOUT YOUR TEACHERS.





BATMAN **CURSE OF THE** **WHITE KNIGHT**

BOOK FOUR

Sean Murphy

Script, Art, Covers

Matt Hollingsworth

Colors & Cover Colors

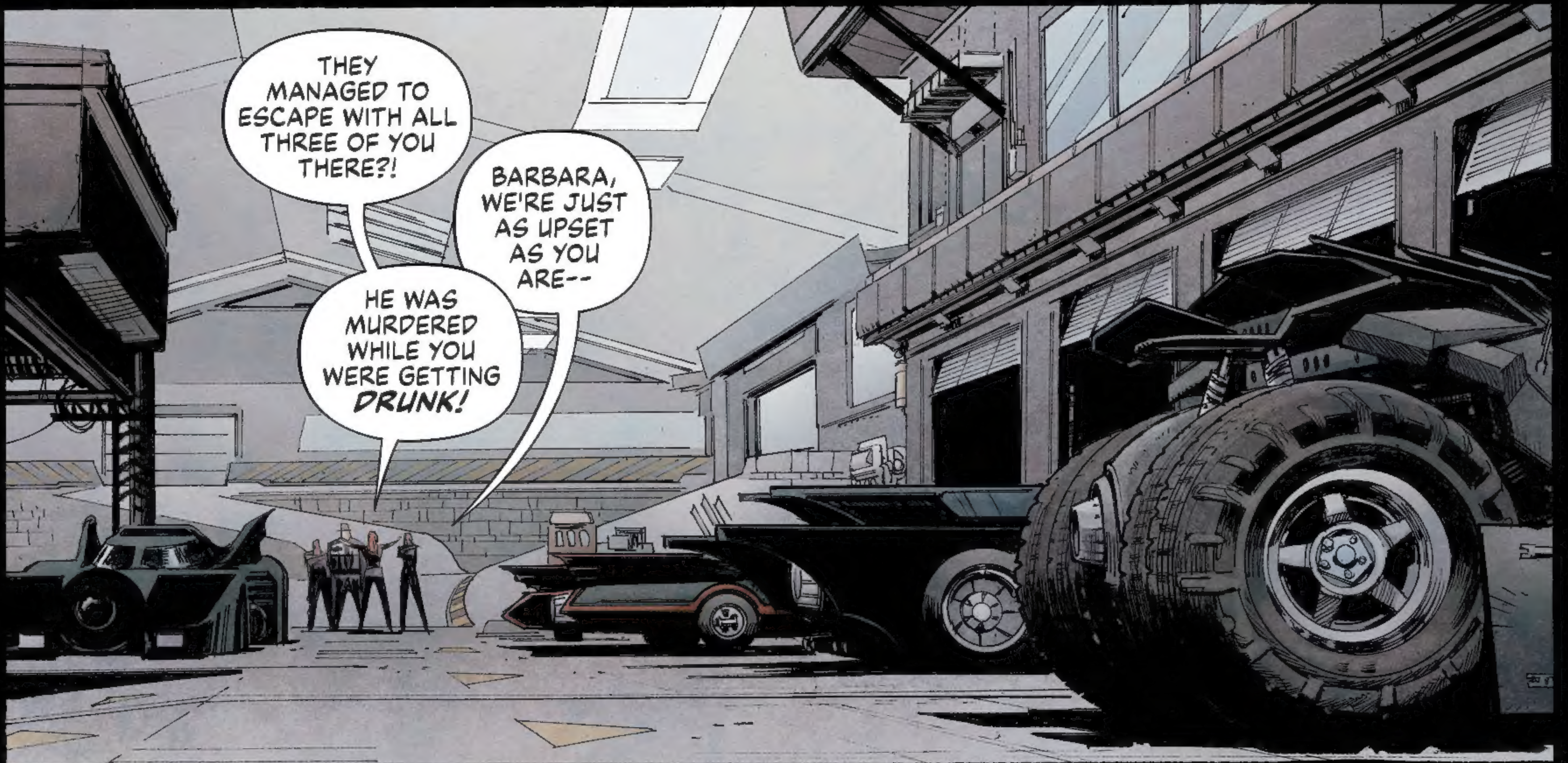
AndWorld Design

Letters

Batman

created by

Bob Kane with Bill Finger



THEY
MANAGED TO
ESCAPE WITH ALL
THREE OF YOU
THERE?!

BARBARA,
WE'RE JUST
AS UPSET
AS YOU
ARE--

HE WAS
MURDERED
WHILE YOU
WERE GETTING
DRUNK!



~SNIFF~

...BELIEVE
ME, KIDDO.
I WISH IT
HAD BEEN
ME.

WHY
GO AFTER MY
DAD?! I THOUGHT
THEY WERE ONLY
TRYING TO KILL
BATMAN!

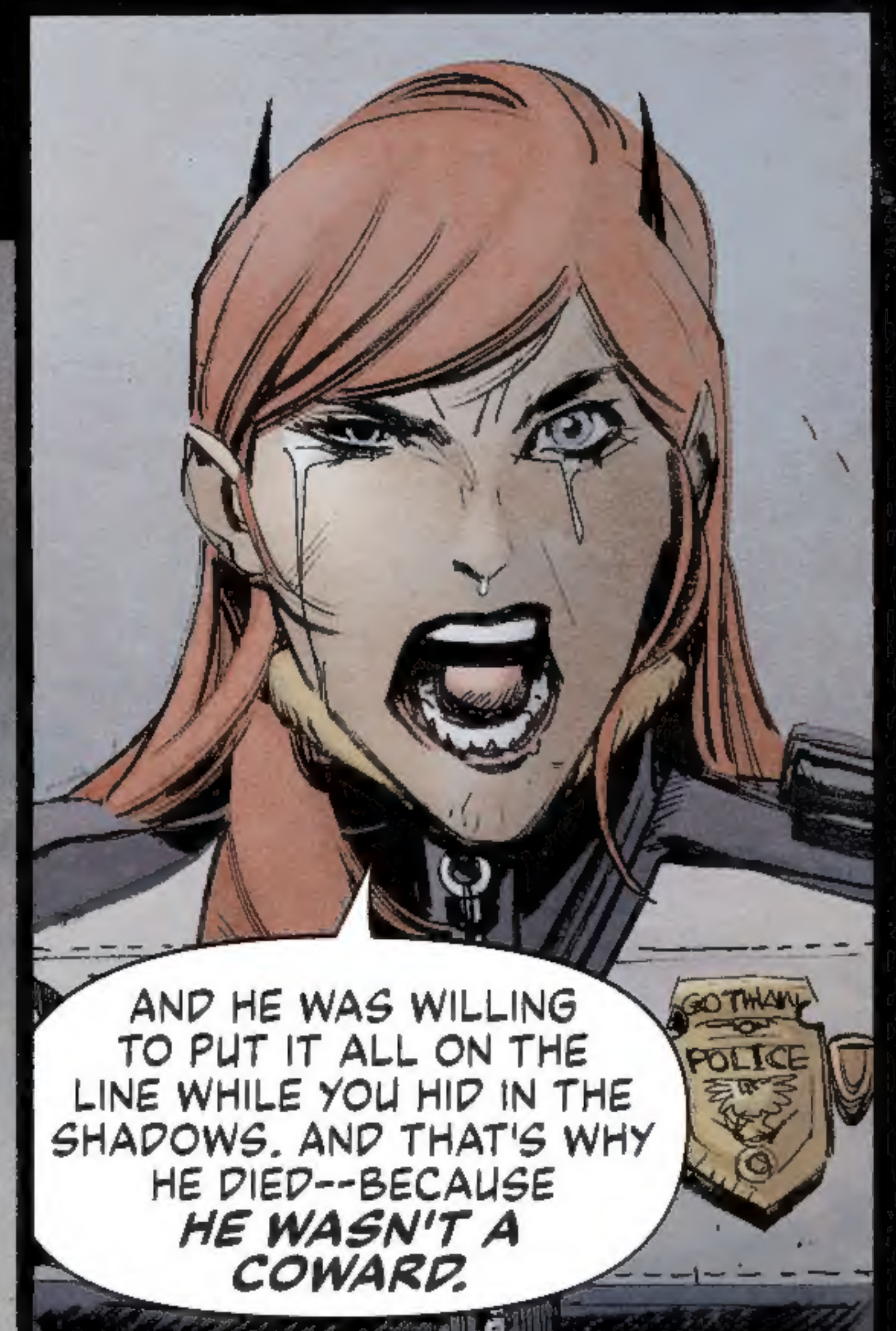
BECAUSE OF
THE **NAPIER
INITIATIVE.**

IF YOUR FATHER
BECAME MAYOR, HE
WOULD HAVE BEEN A
BIGGER THREAT
TO THEM.



NO, THEY
KILLED HIM BECAUSE
OF **YOU!** BECAUSE OF
WHAT YOU STARTED--
**HE BELIEVED
IN YOU!**

BARBARA...



AND HE WAS WILLING
TO PUT IT ALL ON THE
LINE WHILE YOU HID IN THE
SHADOWS. AND THAT'S WHY
HE DIED--BECAUSE
**HE WASN'T A
COWARD.**



BABS...

LET HER
GO.

BUT--



WE'RE
IN THE MIDDLE
OF A MANHUNT,
GRAYSON. **I NEED
YOU TO STAY
FOCUSED.**

YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT
IT'S LIKE TO
LOSE A PARENT,
RENEE!

BESIDES,
WHO PUT **YOU**
IN CHARGE?



JAMES
GODDAMN
GORDON
DID!

AND IF YOU'RE GOING TO
CONTINUE WORKING FOR
THE GTO, THEN YOU'RE
GOING TO FOLLOW *MY*
ORDERS.



WHAT'S THE MOVE,
COMMISSIONER? HOW
WE GONNA FIND
THIS GUY?

AZRAEL.

I HEARD
HIM SAY IT TO
GORDON.



AZRAEL--
WHAT DOES
THAT EVEN
MEAN?

AZRAEL
WAS THE
ARCHANGEL
OF DEATH.



THE WAY THEY FLANKED
US OUTSIDE THE BAR, THE
WAY THEY PLANTED
EXPLOSIVES AT WAYNE
MANOR--I SMELL
EX-MILITARY.

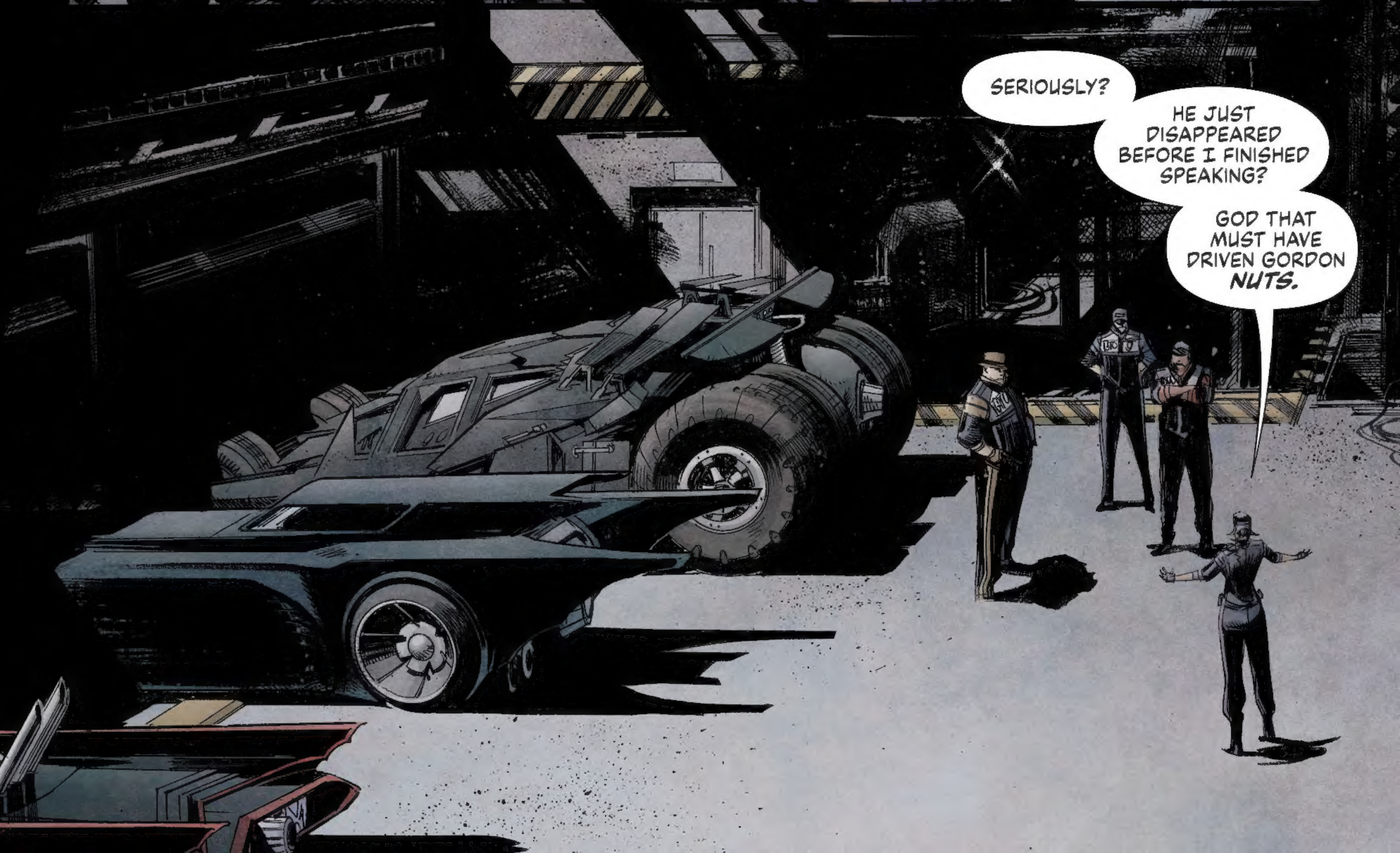
AGREED. CHECK
THE DATABASE FOR
ANYTHING RELATED
TO AZRAEL.

BULLOCK, GO
BACK AND HAVE
ANOTHER LOOK AT THE
CRIME SCENE. AND TAKE
GRAYSON WITH YOU.

WE'RE ALL
TARGETS NOW, SO
NO ONE LEAVES THIS
BUILDING ALONE,
AND THAT GOES
FOR YOU, TOO...



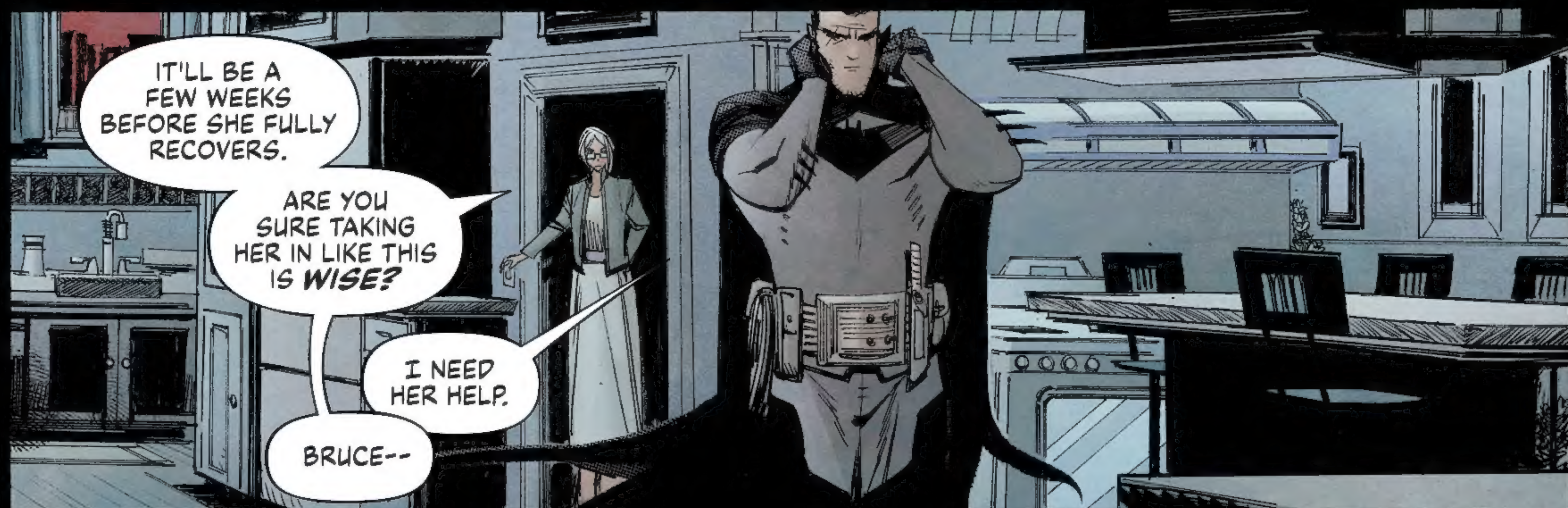
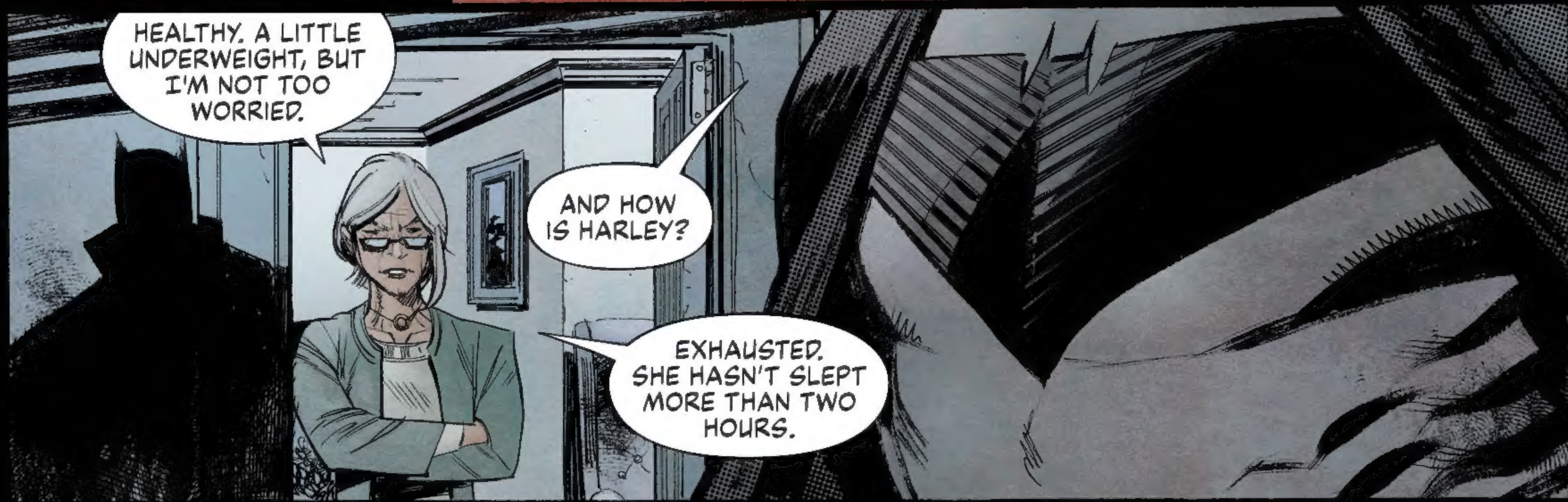
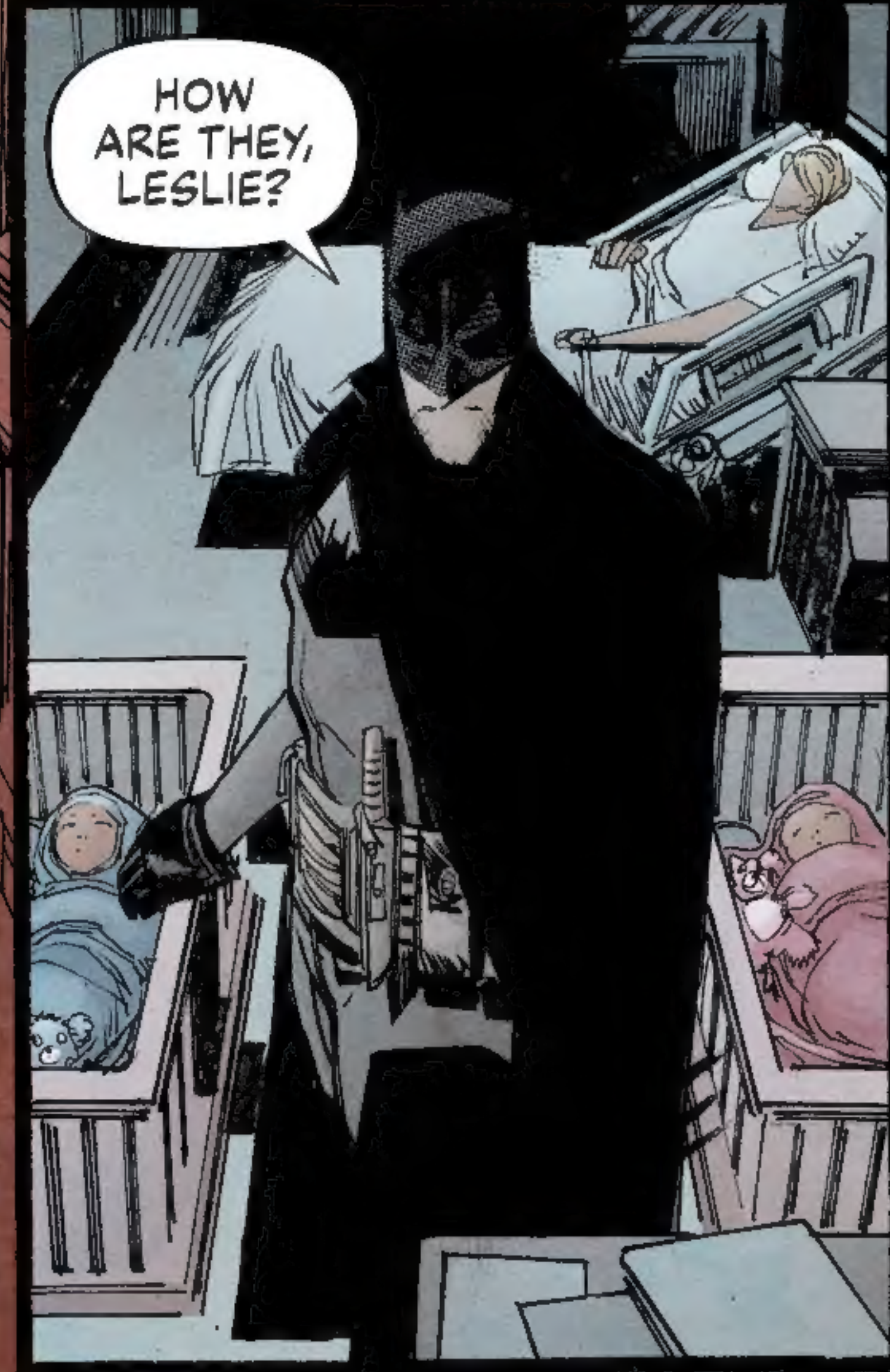
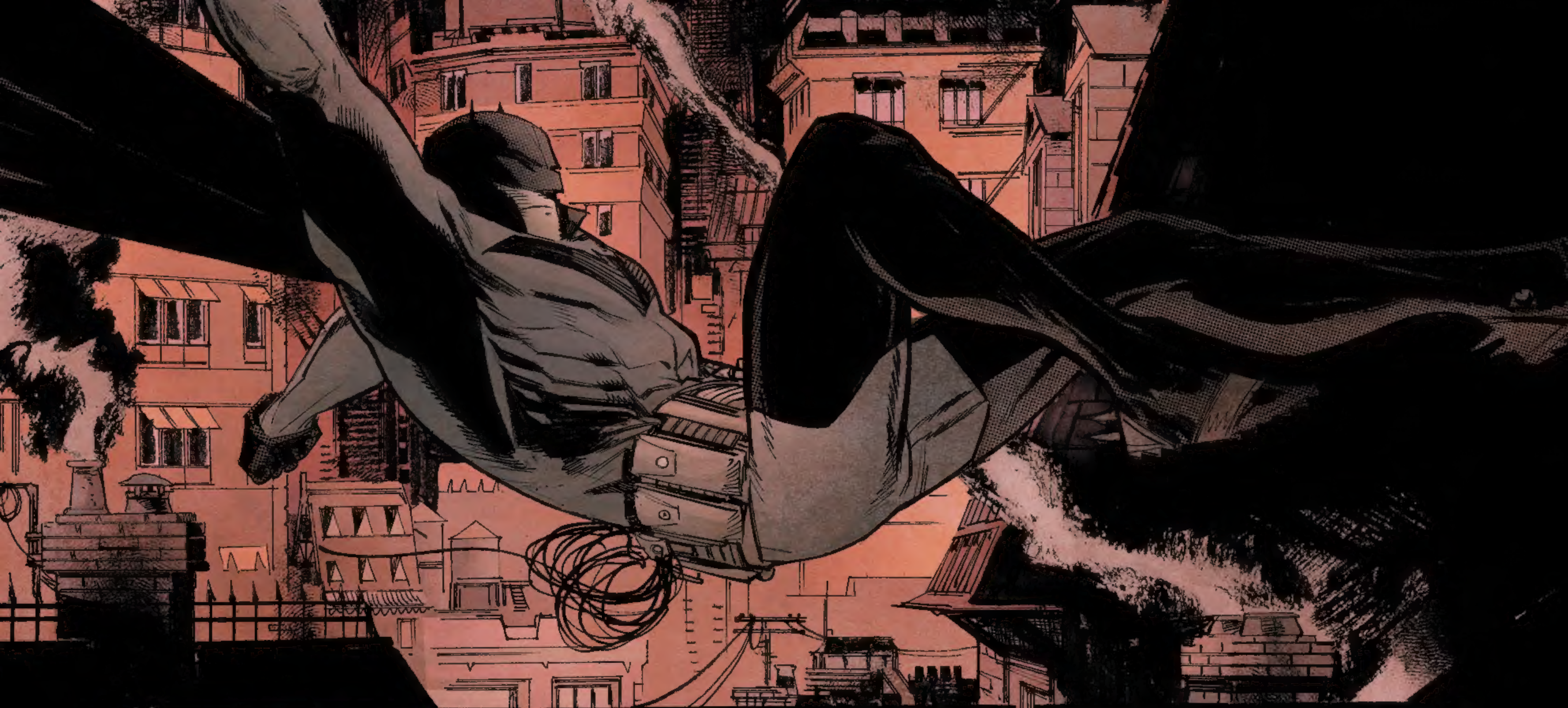
...BATMAN.

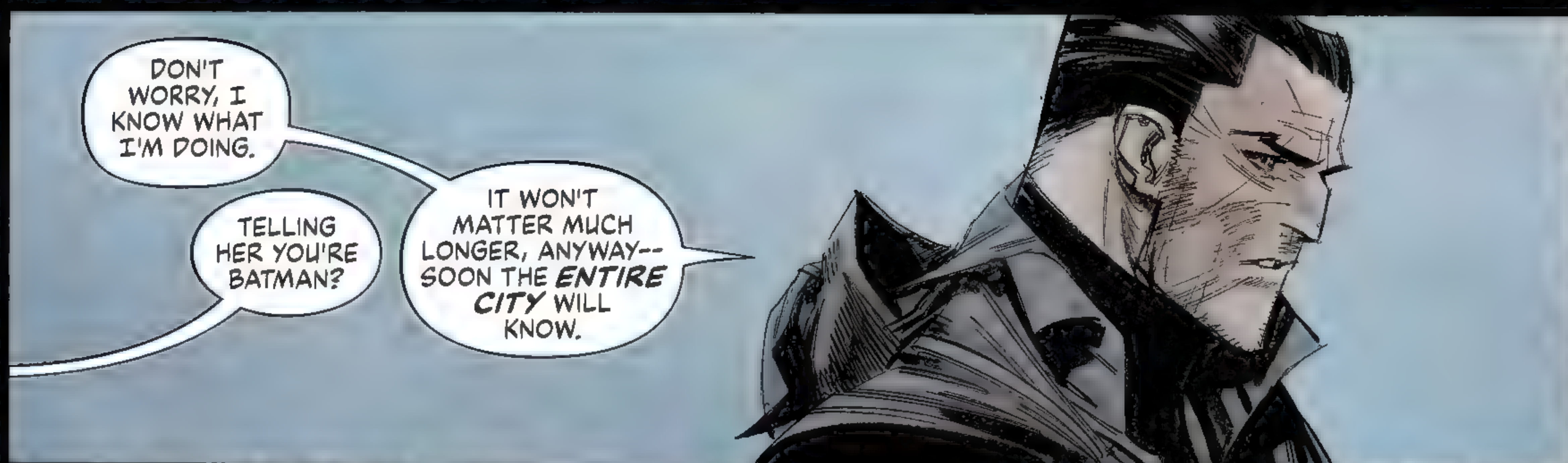


SERIOUSLY?

HE JUST
DISAPPEARED
BEFORE I FINISHED
SPEAKING?

GOD THAT
MUST HAVE
DRIVEN GORDON
NUTS.





DON'T
WORRY, I
KNOW WHAT
I'M DOING.

TELLING
HER YOU'RE
BATMAN?

IT WON'T
MATTER MUCH
LONGER, ANYWAY--
SOON THE *ENTIRE*
CITY WILL
KNOW.



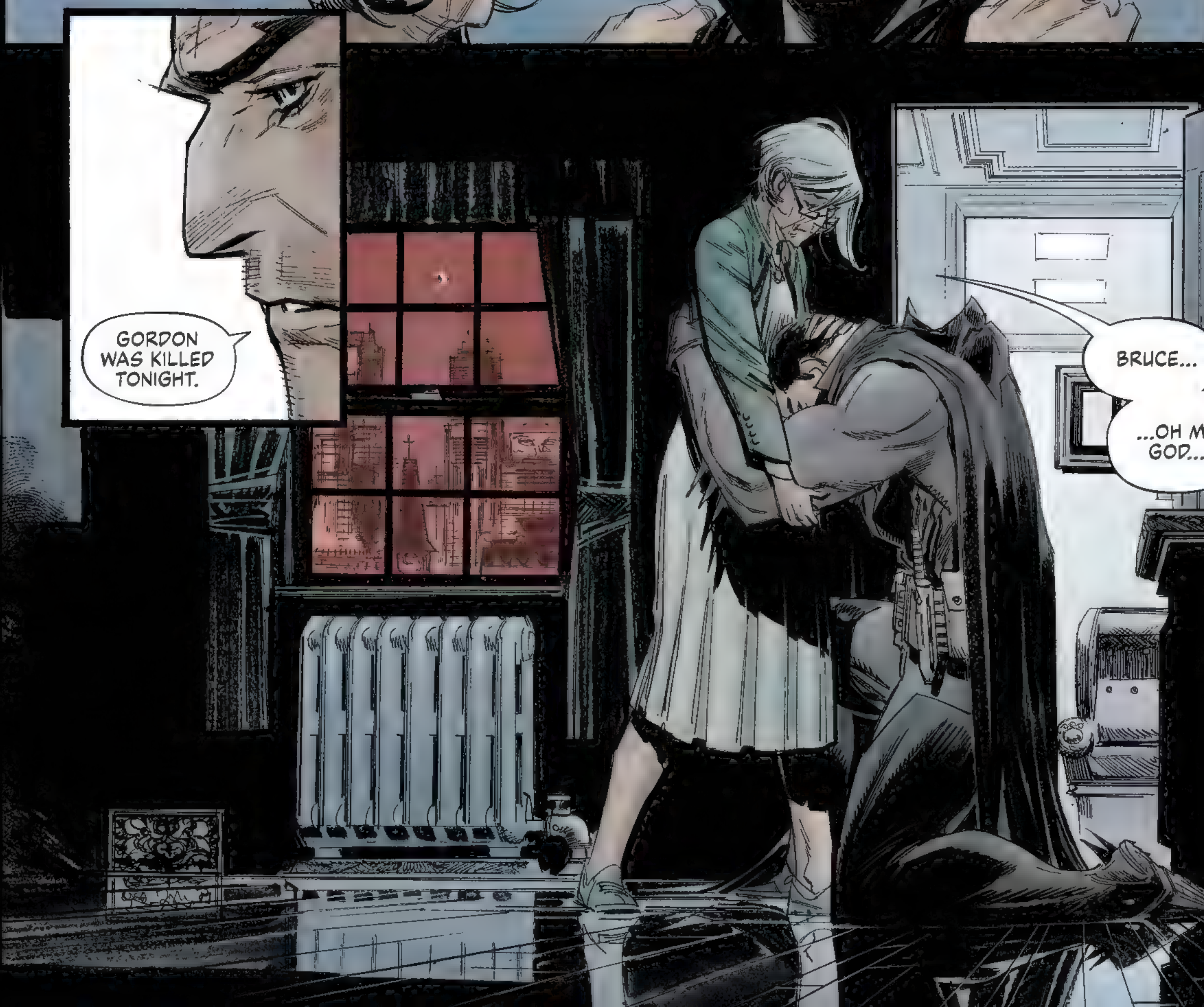
GOOD LORD,
BRUCE.

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND WHAT
WILL HAPPEN IF THE
TRUTH GETS OUT THERE?
WHAT IT'LL DO TO YOU?
TO THE PEOPLE
AROUND YOU--

THERE'S
SOMETHING
ELSE...



...



GORDON
WAS KILLED
TONIGHT.

BRUCE...

...OH MY
GOD...





HE'S OUT OF HIS MIND, DICK! AND WE ALL BOUGHT INTO IT!

PULL YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR ASS-- THIS ISN'T WORKING!

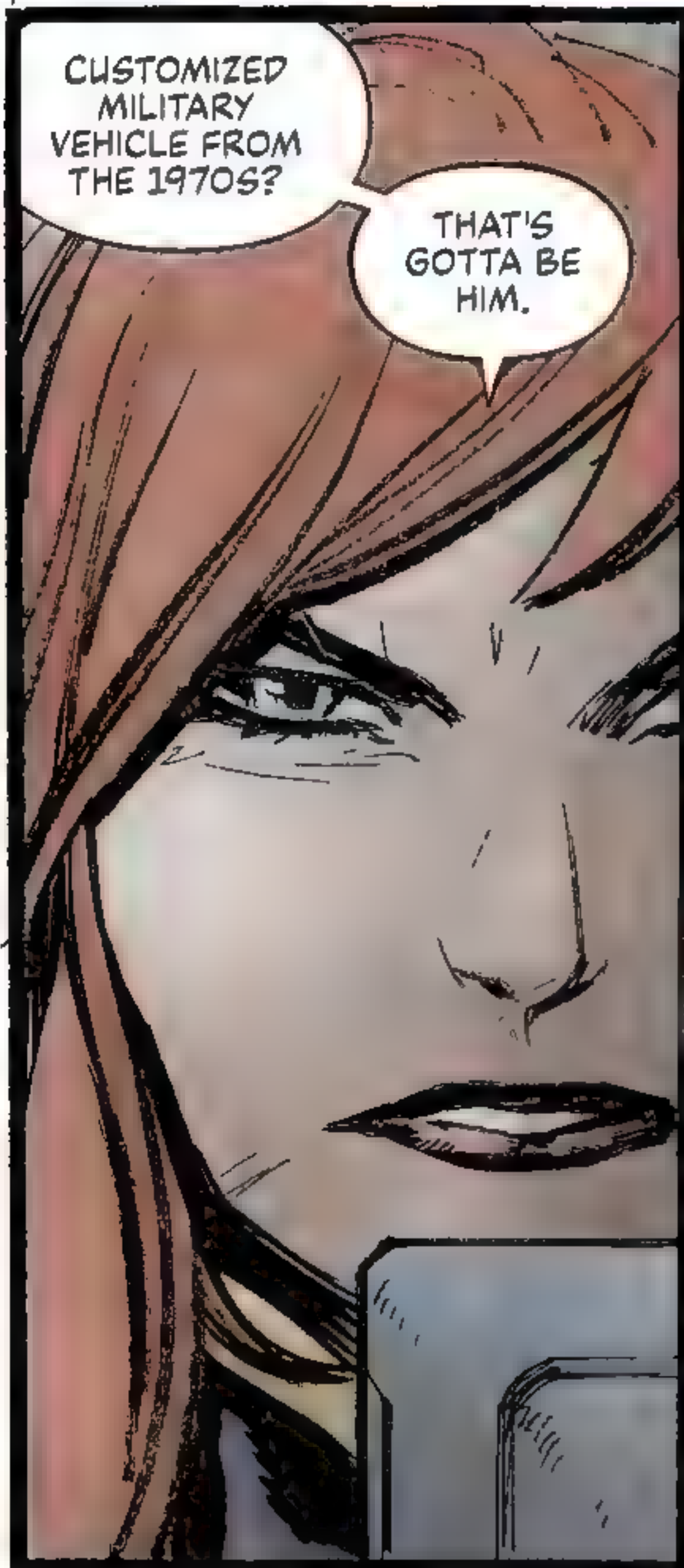
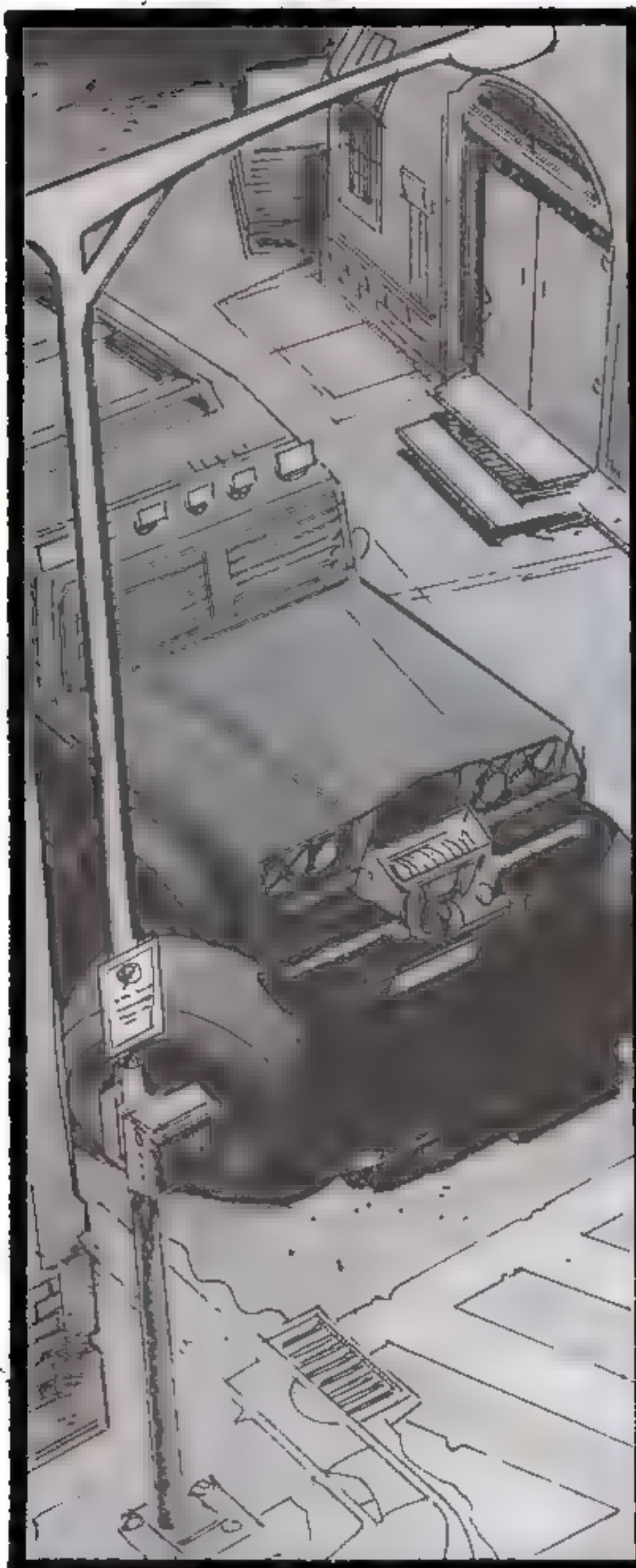
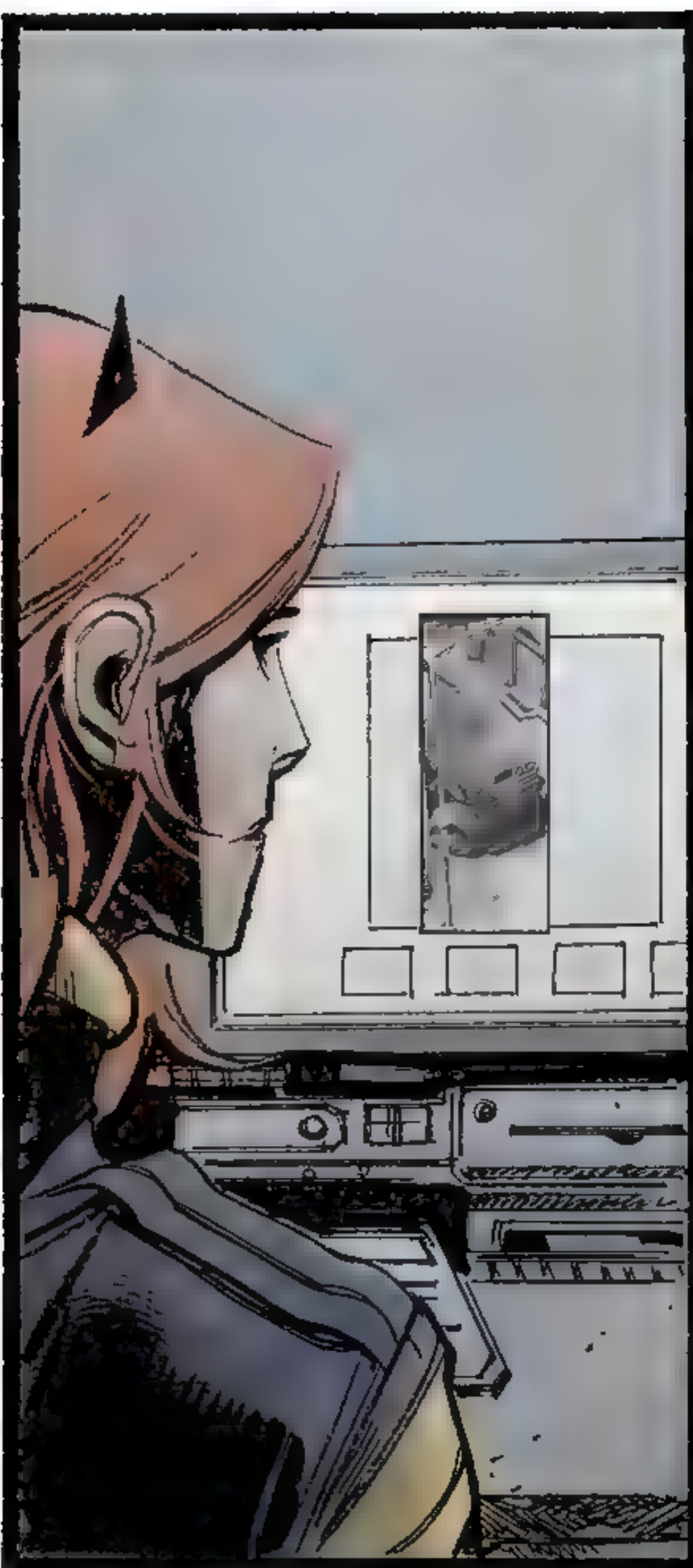
CAPES, COWLS, AND SECRET IDENTITIES--THIS INSANITY RUINED OUR LIVES. BUT NO ONE WANTS TO SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE WE'RE IN TOO DEEP.

I'M NOT IN THE HABIT OF DEFENDING HIM...

...BUT YOU'RE NOT BEING FAIR--YOU AND I CHOSE THIS.

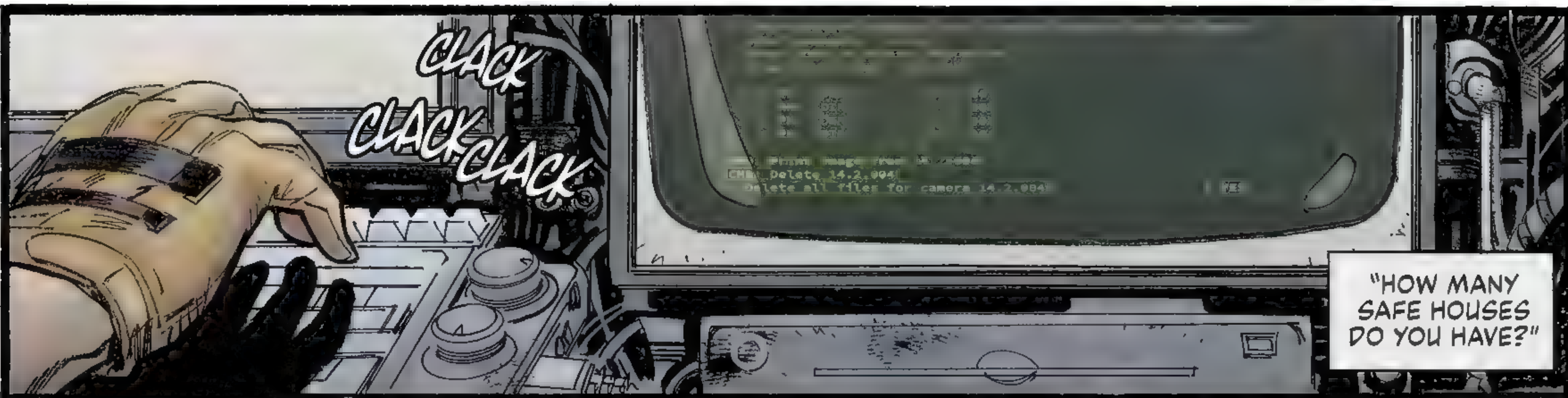
AND SO DID YOUR FATHER.

IF YOU NEED ME, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.



CUSTOMIZED MILITARY VEHICLE FROM THE 1970S?

THAT'S GOTTA BE HIM.



CLACK
CLACK-CLACK

"HOW MANY SAFE HOUSES DO YOU HAVE?"



ONE IN EACH BOROUGH.

WHY? DID YOU EXPECT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN ONE DAY?

JOKER SAID SOMETHING ABOUT GOTHAM DROWNING IN SECRETS. I'M WONDERING IF IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH **GOTHAM RESERVOIR**.

HUH. SO, ALFRED FINALLY TOLD YOU ABOUT THE JOURNAL.

WHO DO YOU THINK HELPED HIM GET IT?

YOU KNEW?!

AND THE TWO OF YOU TOOK IT...

...FROM THE JOKER?



"IT WAS YEARS AGO-- YOU HADN'T BEEN WEARING THE COSTUME FOR VERY LONG, BUT IT WAS ALREADY BEGINNING TO CONSUME YOU.

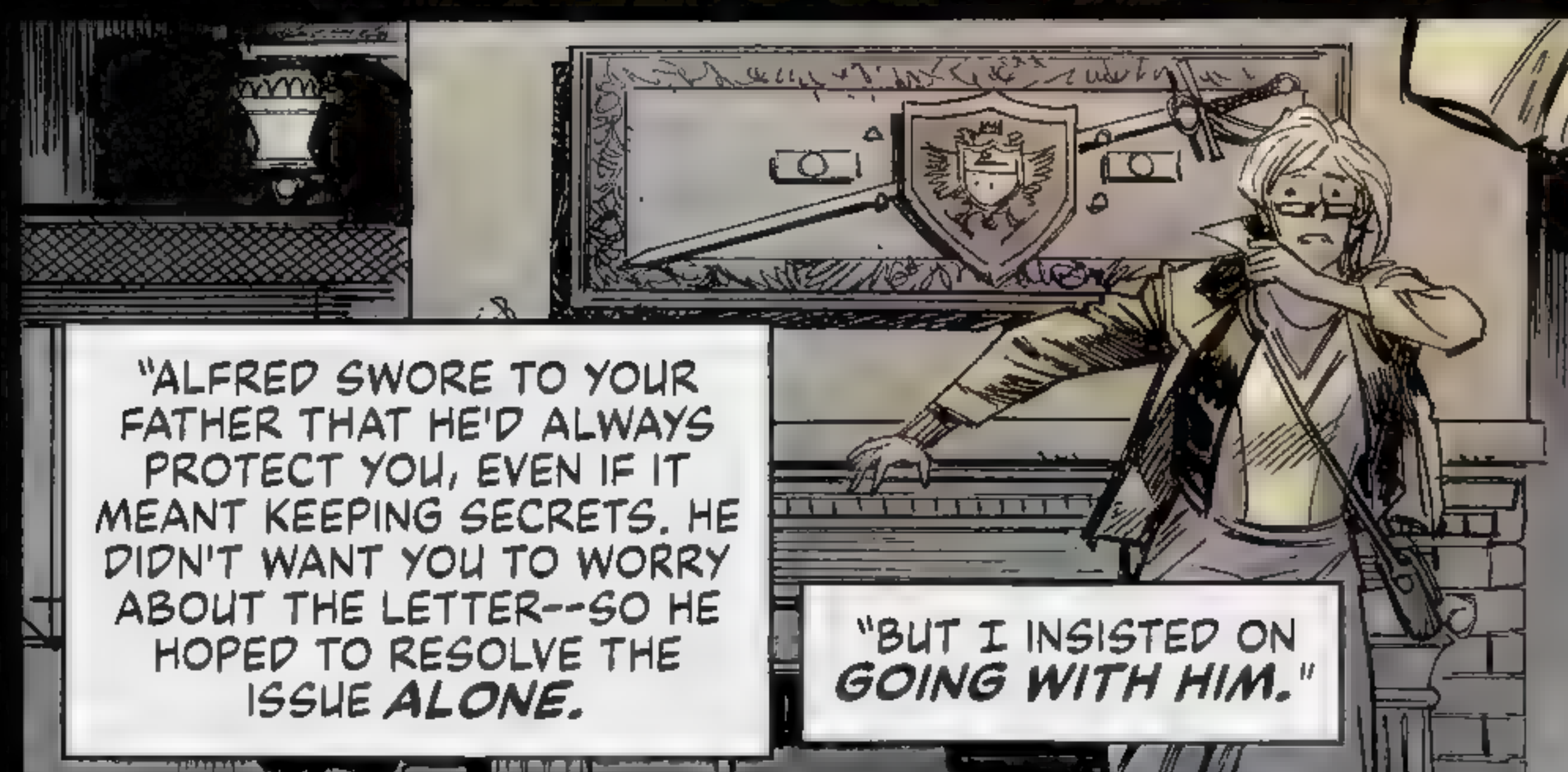


"HE KNEW THERE WAS NO STOPPING IT, SO ALFRED DID WHATEVER HE COULD TO SUPPORT YOU--RUNNING THE ESTATE, MANAGING YOUR BUSINESS AFFAIRS, SORTING THROUGH YOUR MAIL...

"...THAT'S WHEN HE FOUND THE LETTER.



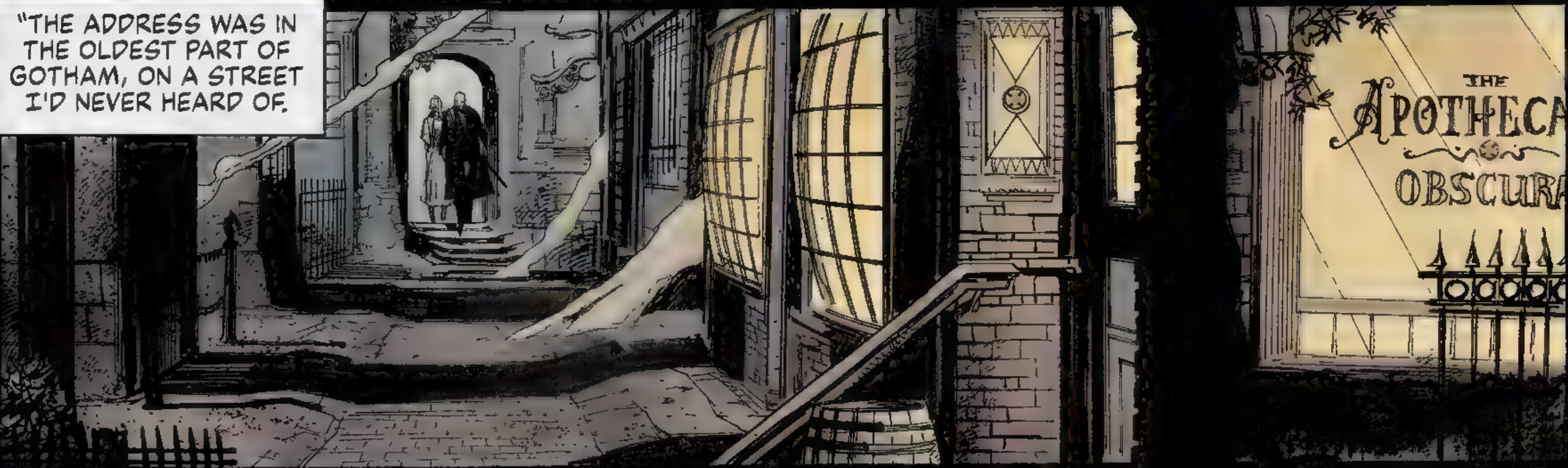
Dear Bruce
I'm in possession of an object that could have dangerous repercussions for you and for Batman. Please meet me at this address where we can discuss it further.
29 West 41st St Gotham



"ALFRED SWORE TO YOUR FATHER THAT HE'D ALWAYS PROTECT YOU, EVEN IF IT MEANT KEEPING SECRETS. HE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY ABOUT THE LETTER--SO HE HOPED TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE ALONE.

"BUT I INSISTED ON GOING WITH HIM."

"THE ADDRESS WAS IN THE OLDEST PART OF GOTHAM, ON A STREET I'D NEVER HEARD OF."



"IT WAS IN THE BASEMENT OF AN OLD PHARMACY."



ALFRED PENNYWORTH, GUARDIAN OF THE WAYNES.

AND LESLIE THOMPkins.

PLEASE SIT. TAKE YOUR DRINK.



FOR ALFRED, A BRANDY-- THE '76 NOTTINGHAM. AND FOR LESLIE, A WHITE ZINFANDEL.

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

WHO ARE YOU?



A PRIEST--THE LAST KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF ST. DUMAS.

DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE NOT IN ANY DANGER--I'M NOT A WARRIOR-PRIEST OF THE OLD ORDER.

I'M OF THE NEW ORDER-- A LIBRARIAN, A HISTORIAN, AND A COLLECTOR.



WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?

I TOOK IT.

FROM THE JOKER.





IT'S A WARNING--

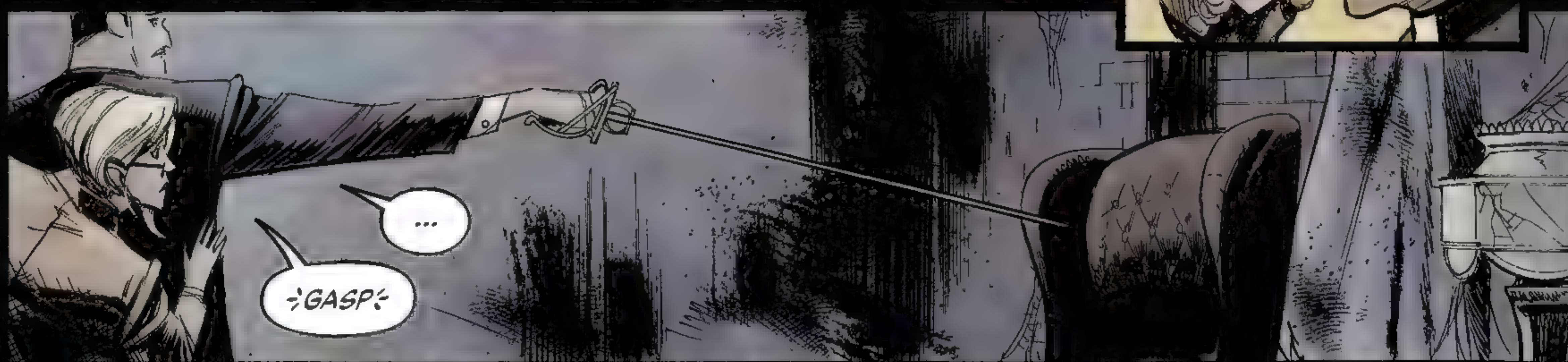
YOU'LL FIND I DON'T RESPOND WELL TO WARNINGS.

I'M HERE TO HELP YOU, MR. PENNYWORTH-- THE JOURNAL IS A GIFT FOR BRUCE. AS HIS GUARDIAN, I'LL COUNT ON YOU TO GIVE IT TO HIM WHEN YOU THINK HE'S READY.

ALFRED, PUT THAT AWAY--

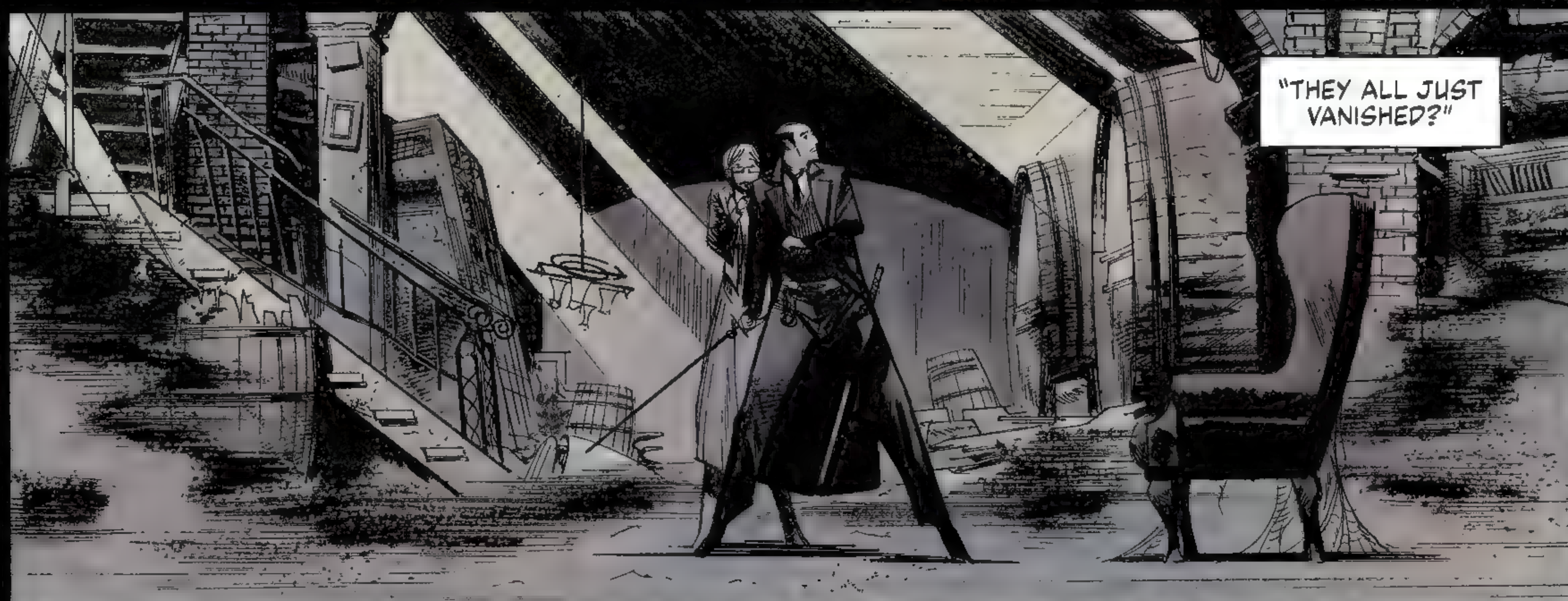
THIS ARTIFACT IS IMPORTANT-- MAYBE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT BRUCE WILL EVER OWN. IN IT ARE CLUES TO THE PAST AND THE CURSE THAT HAS PLAGUED THE WAYNES.

THAT'S WHY I TOOK IT FROM THE JOKER--WE CAN'T HAVE HIM REIGNITING THE BLOOD FEUD BETWEEN THE WAYNES AND BAKKARS.

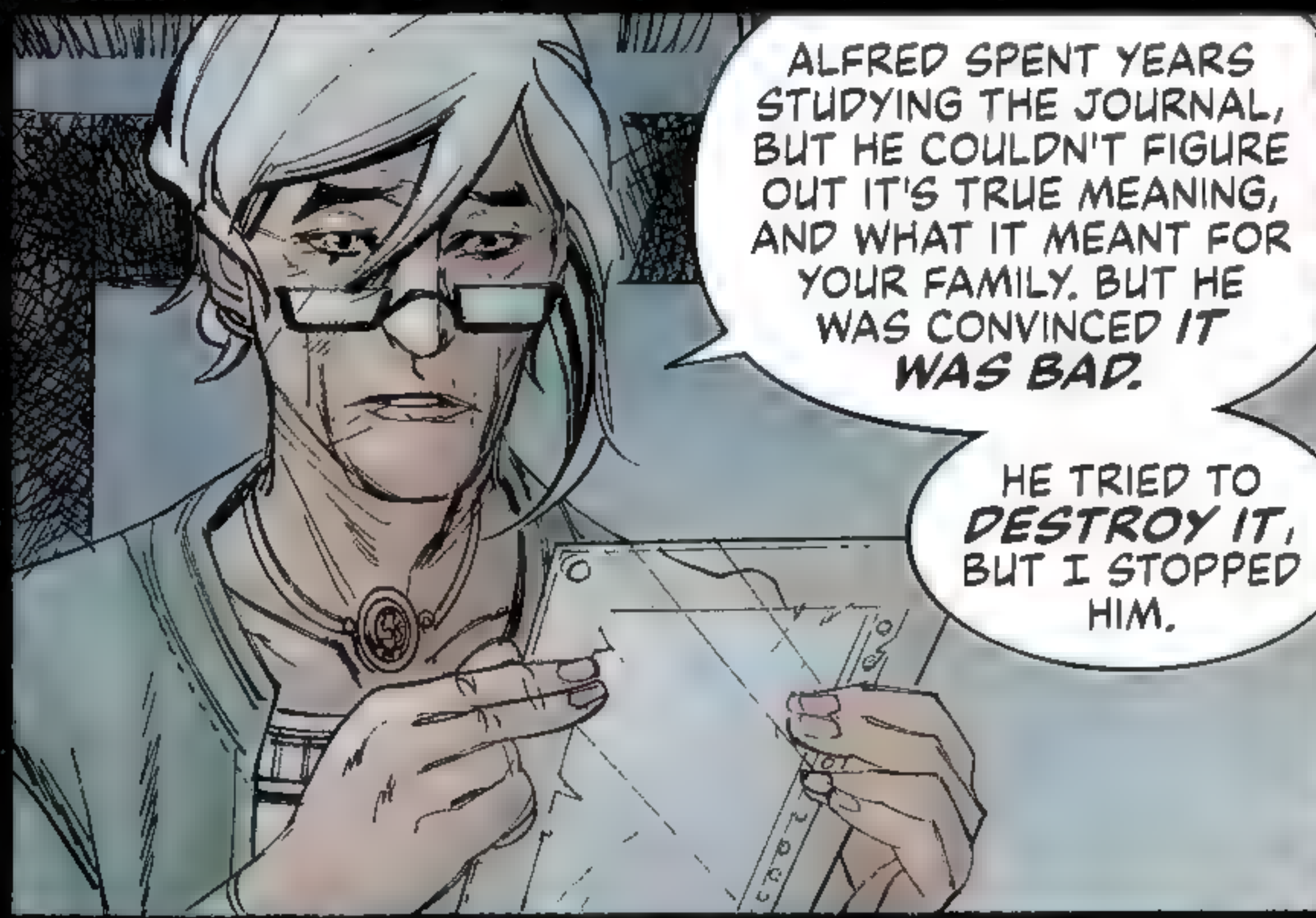


...

GASP!



"THEY ALL JUST VANISHED?"



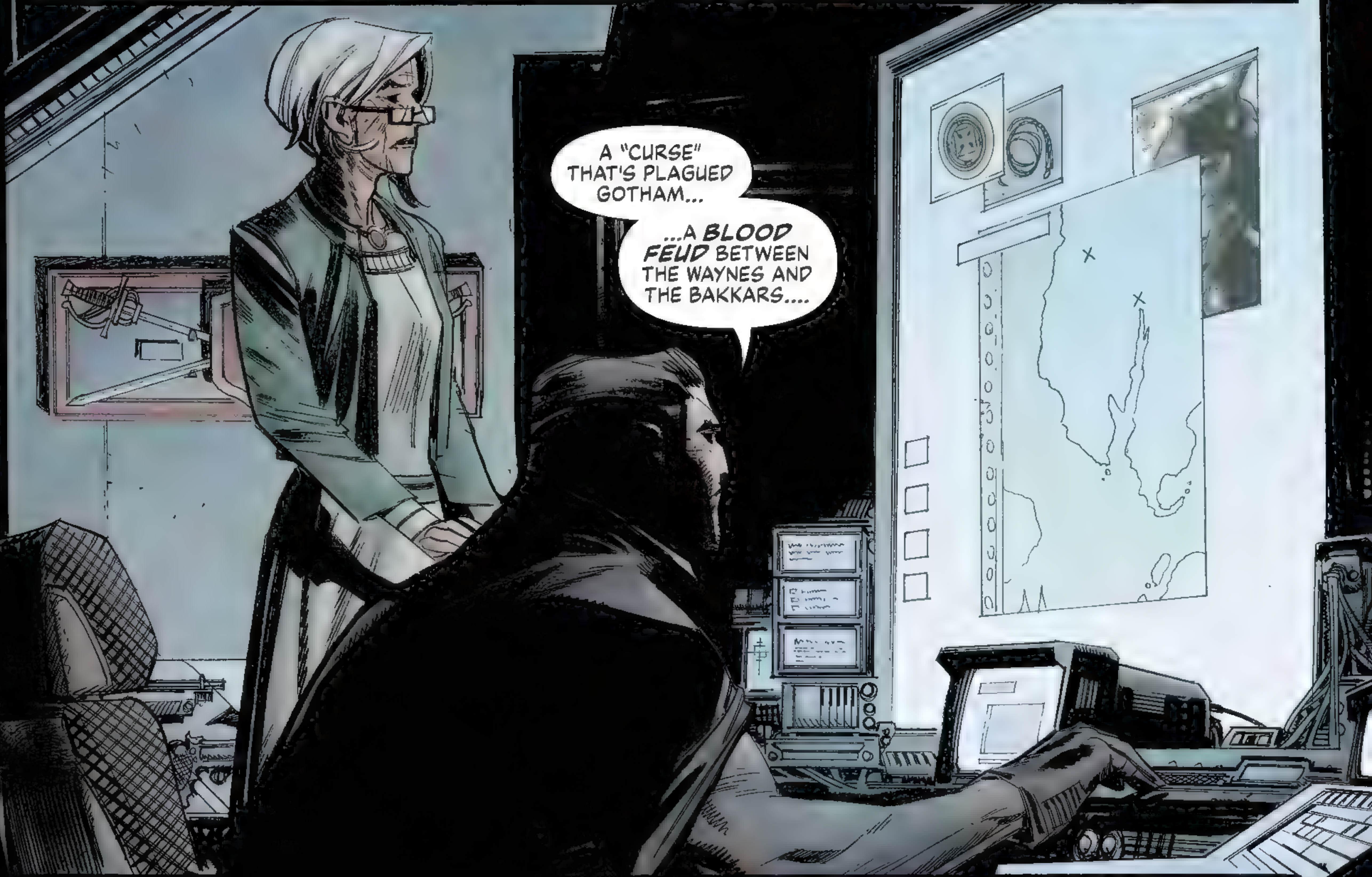
ALFRED SPENT YEARS STUDYING THE JOURNAL, BUT HE COULDN'T FIGURE OUT IT'S TRUE MEANING, AND WHAT IT MEANT FOR YOUR FAMILY. BUT HE WAS CONVINCED IT **WAS BAD.**

HE TRIED TO **DESTROY IT,** BUT I STOPPED HIM.



I TOLD ALFRED IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT WAS IN THE JOURNAL--YOU HAD A **RIGHT TO KNOW.**

SO HE HID IT, HOPING THAT ONE DAY YOU'D BE ABLE TO PIECE IT ALL TOGETHER.



A "CURSE" THAT'S PLAGUED GOTHAM...

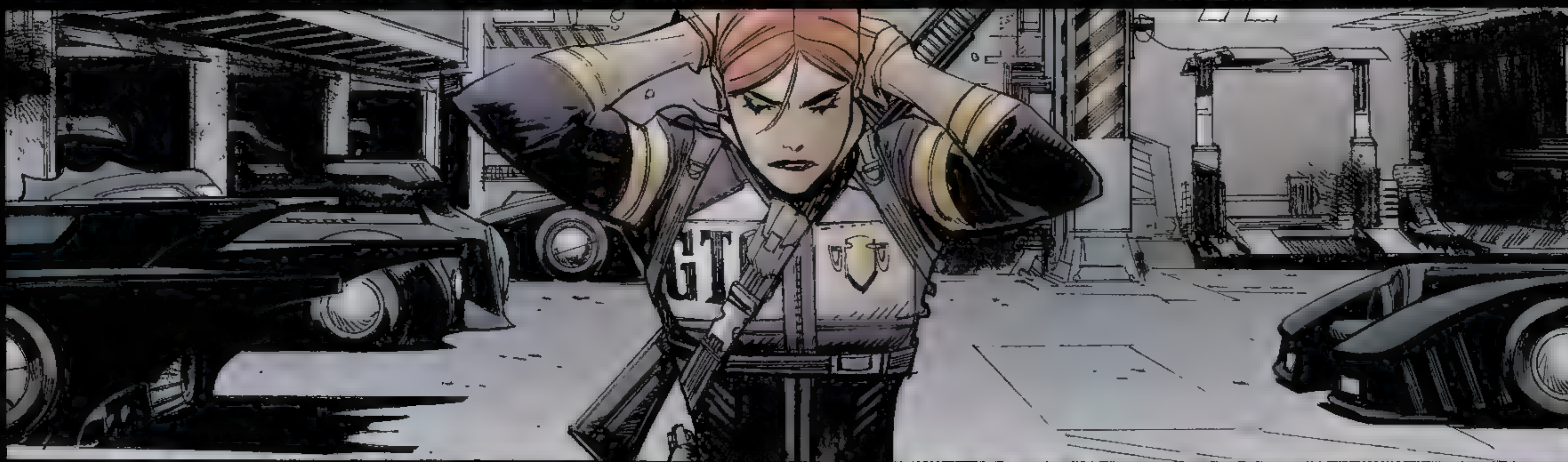
...A **BLOOD FEUD** BETWEEN THE WAYNES AND THE BAKKARS....

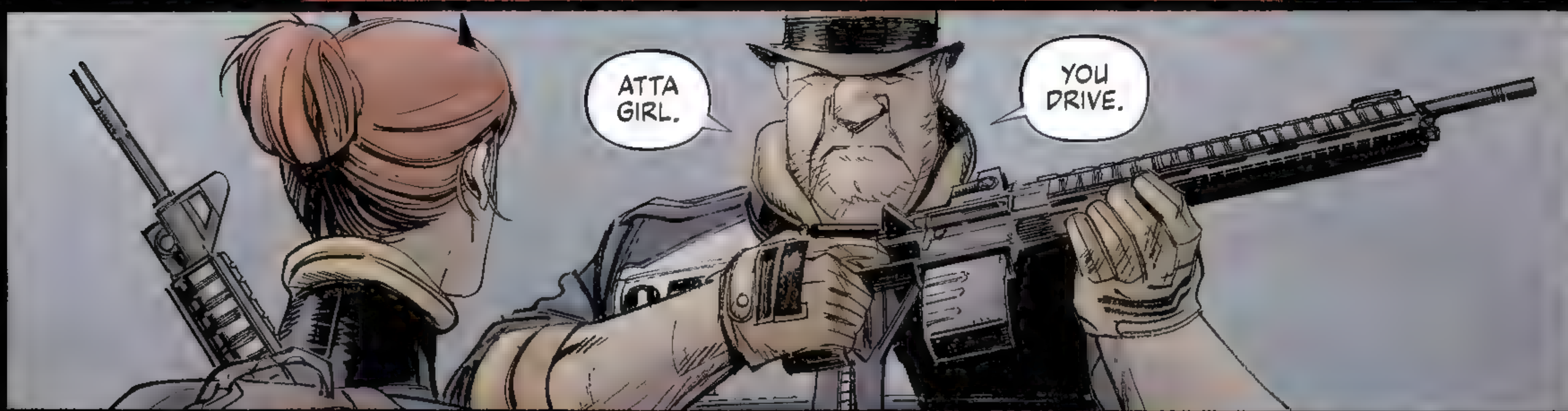


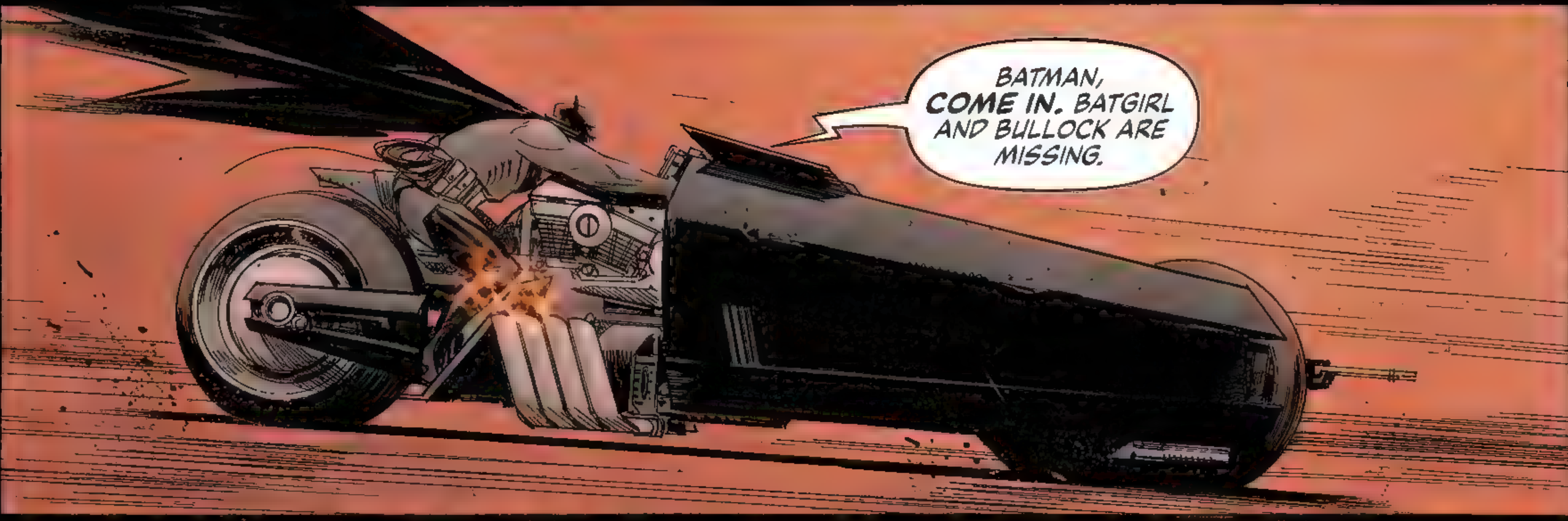
...WHATEVER IT IS, I NEED TO FIGURE IT OUT. **FAST.**



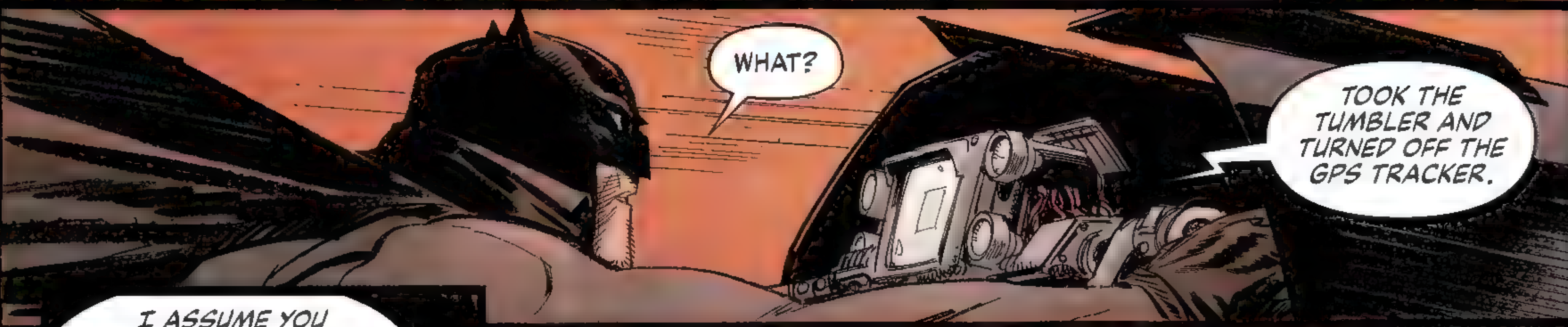
MIGHT BE THE ONLY WAY TO FIND **AZRAEL.**







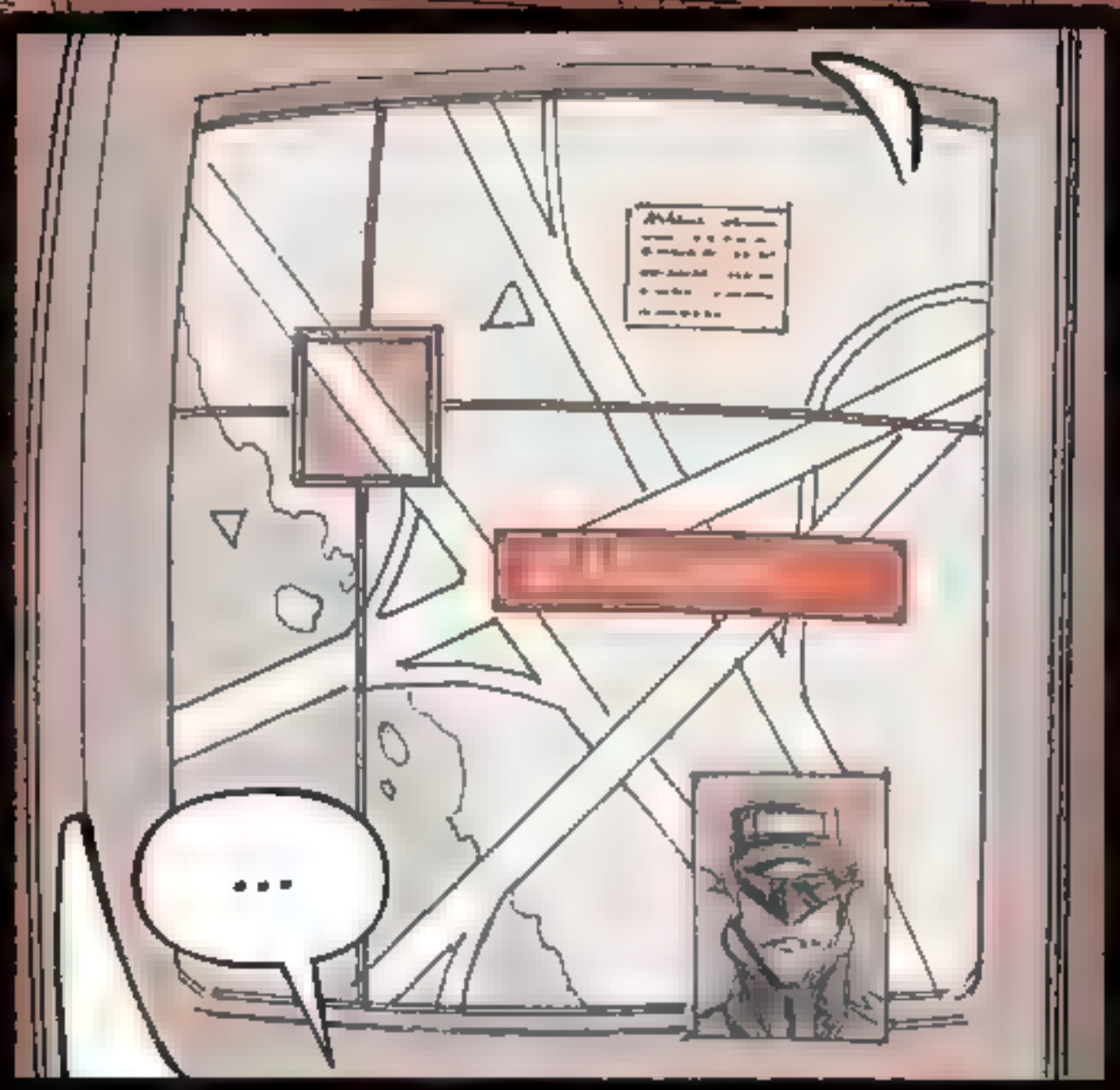
BATMAN,
COME IN. BATGIRL
AND BULLOCK ARE
MISSING.



WHAT?

TOOK THE
TUMBLER AND
TURNED OFF THE
GPS TRACKER.

I ASSUME YOU
INSTALLED **BACKUP**
LOCATORS ON ALL THE
BATMOBILES? WITHOUT
TELLING ANY OF US?



SHE'S HEADED UP
ROUTE 1, NEAR
THE GOTHAM
RIVER.

THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT.

"HERE, TAKE
YOUR PILLS."



KAFF!
KAFF!

I DON'T
NEED PILLS.
GOD WILL--

DON'T
START THAT
SHIT, JP.

YOU HAVE TWO
CHOICES...DIE ON YOUR
ASS FROM CANCER, OR
DIE ON YOUR FEET LIKE
A SOLDIER.

SO TAKE
THEM.

YOU THINK
THESE PILLS
CAN REALLY
SAVE ME?

FROM CANCER,
YES. BUT MAYBE
NOT FROM
RUTH.



WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

KILLING GORDON
WASN'T PART OF THE
PLAN! RUTH WANTED
US TO DO THIS
QUIETLY--

TO HELL
WITH RUTH--SHE
FORGETS WHOSE
VALLEY THIS IS.

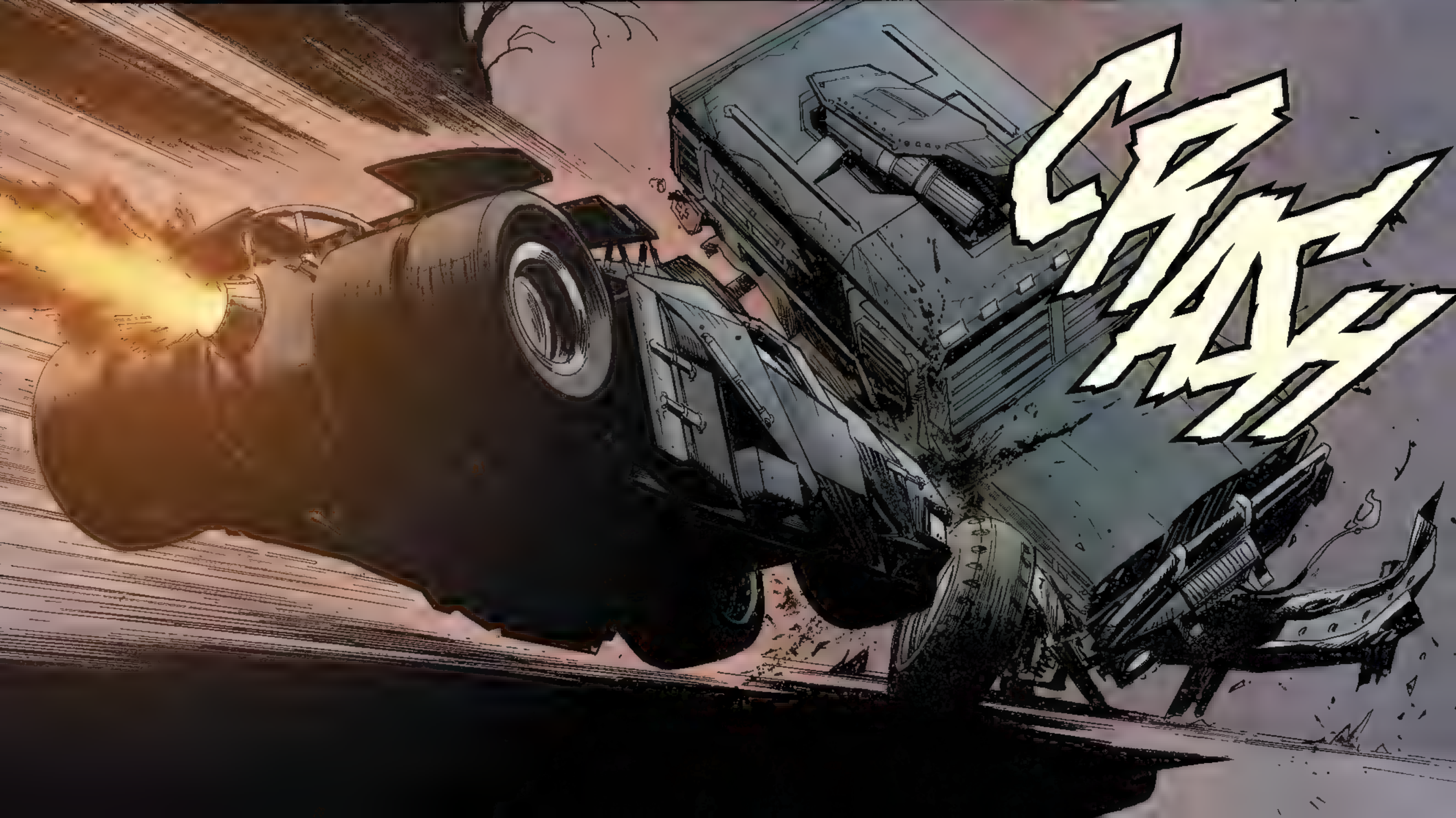
YOU DON'T HAVE
ANY WAY OUT OF THIS,
DO YOU? YOU'RE ON A
SUICIDE MISSION.

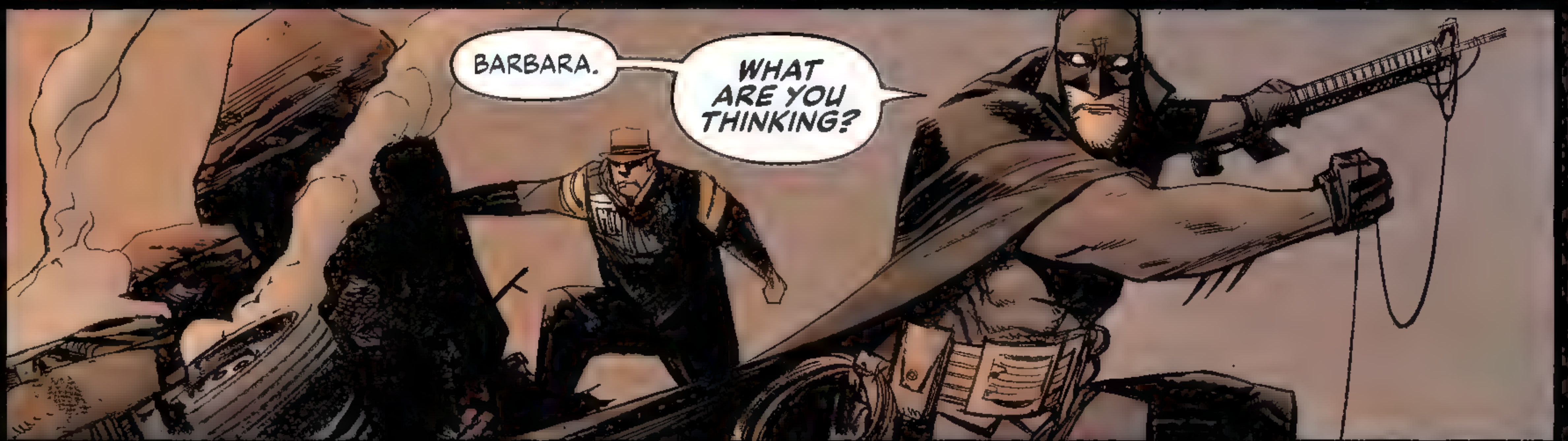


THEN
WHY ARE YOU
HELPING ME?

YOU KNOW
WHY.

WE MIGHT NOT
LIKE IT, BUT WE'RE
NOT LETTING YOU
DO THIS ALONE.

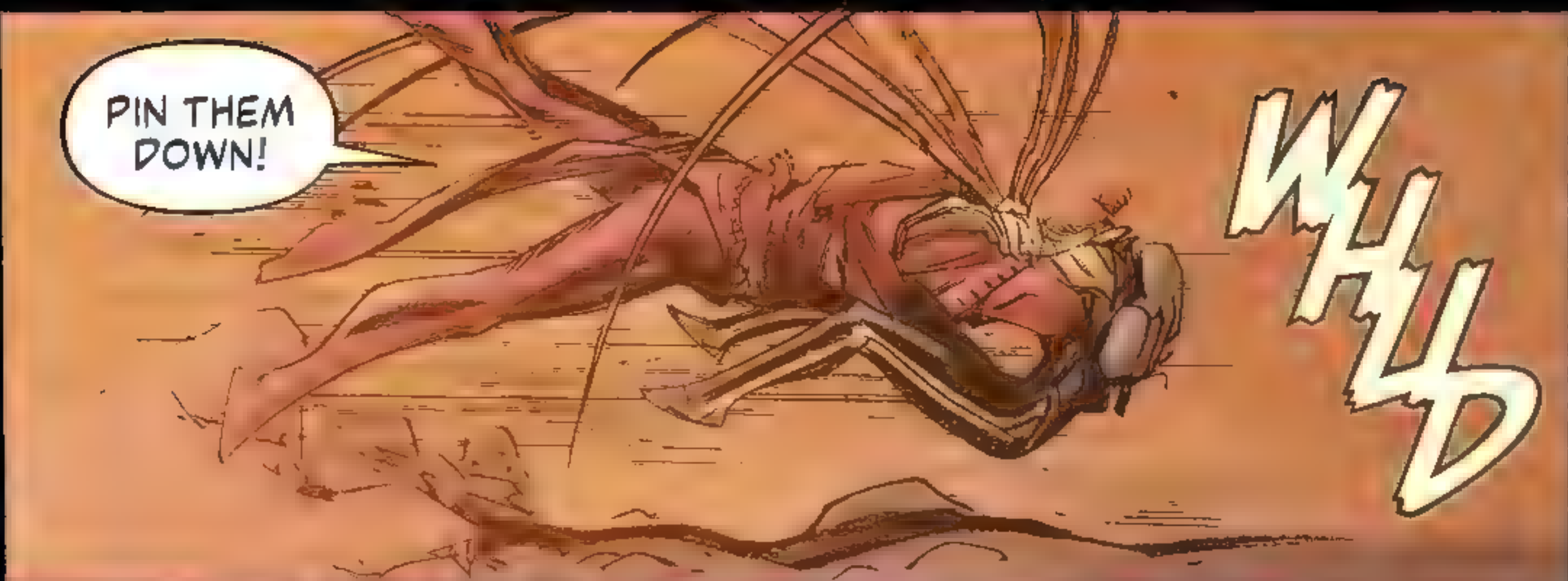






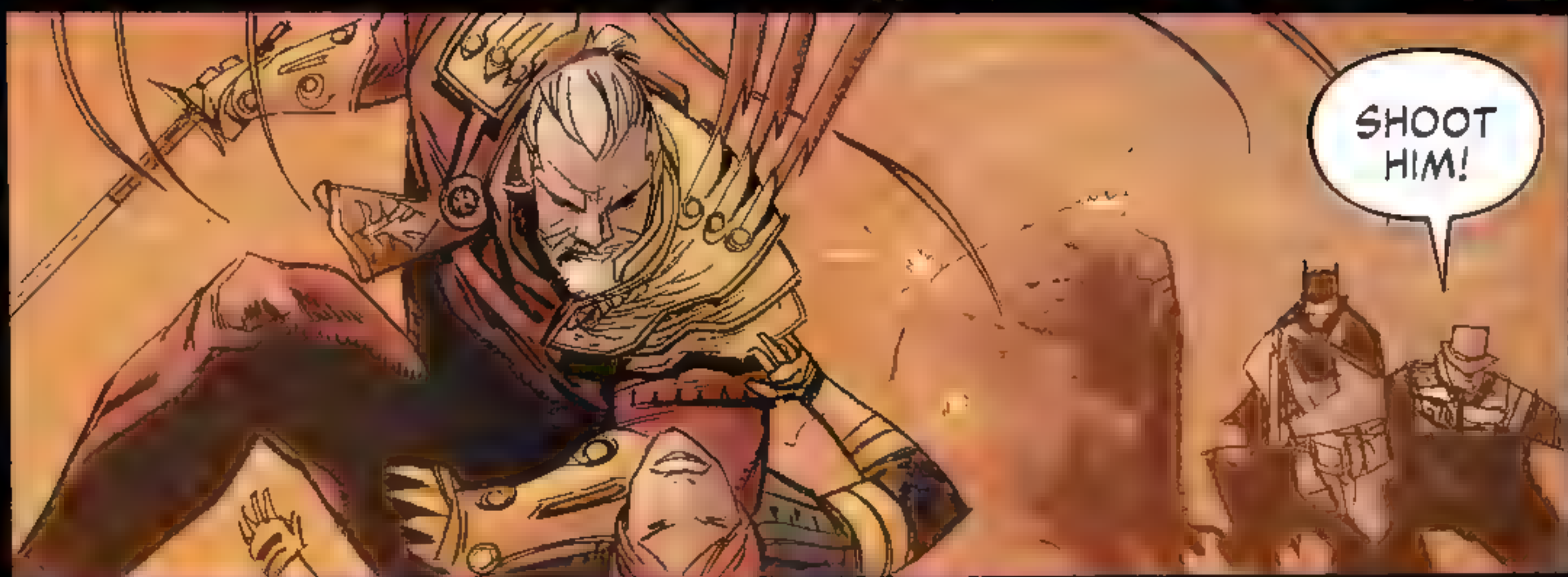
HE'S
ALIVE?!

BRAAAT



PIN THEM
DOWN!

WHLD



SHOOT
HIM!



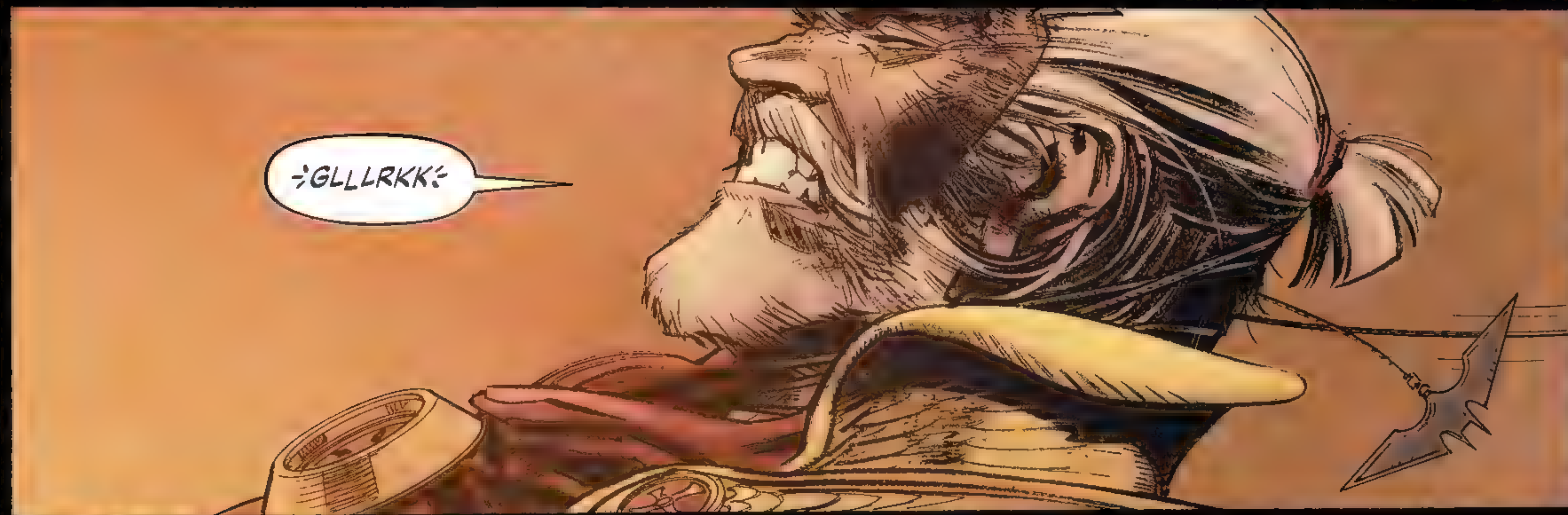
I SAID
SHOOT
HIM!



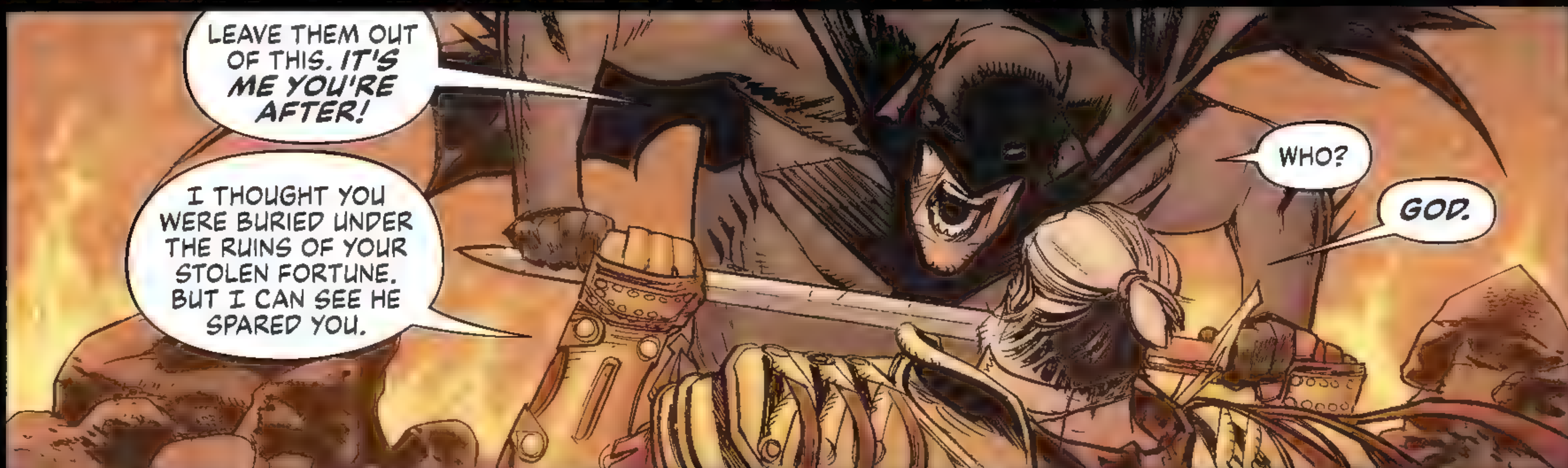
CRACK



BOOM



GLLLRKK



LEAVE THEM OUT OF THIS. IT'S ME YOU'RE AFTER!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE BURIED UNDER THE RUINS OF YOUR STOLEN FORTUNE. BUT I CAN SEE HE SPARED YOU.

WHO?

GOD.



THAT MEANS HE WANTED US TO FIGHT IN THE OPEN BATTLEFIELD LIKE THIS.



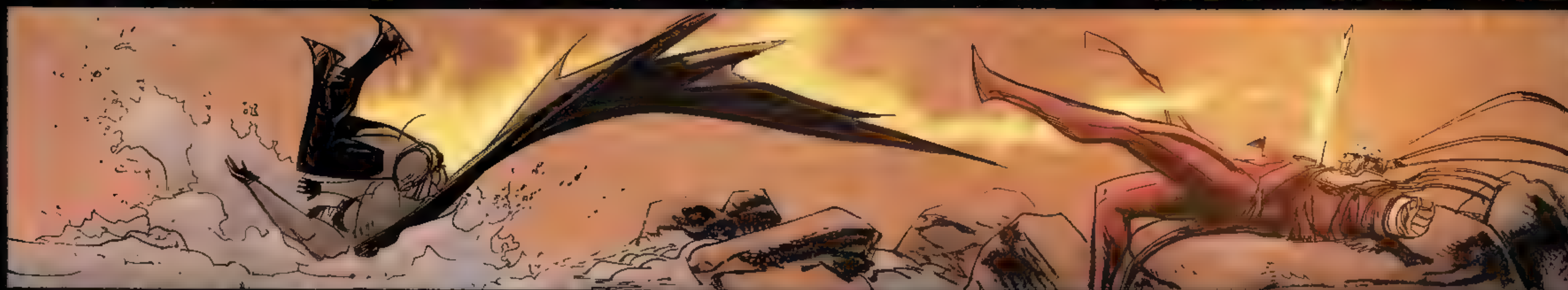
THIS IS YOUR DESTINY...

...THIS IS YOUR RETRIBUTION.



ARGH!

THIS IS GOD'S WILL.



I KNOW ABOUT EDMOND AND BAKKAR--AND I *DON'T CARE* WHAT YOU THINK WE TOOK FROM YOU. THE WAYNES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE RIGHTFUL PROTECTORS OF GOTHAM...

...AND WE ALWAYS WILL BE.

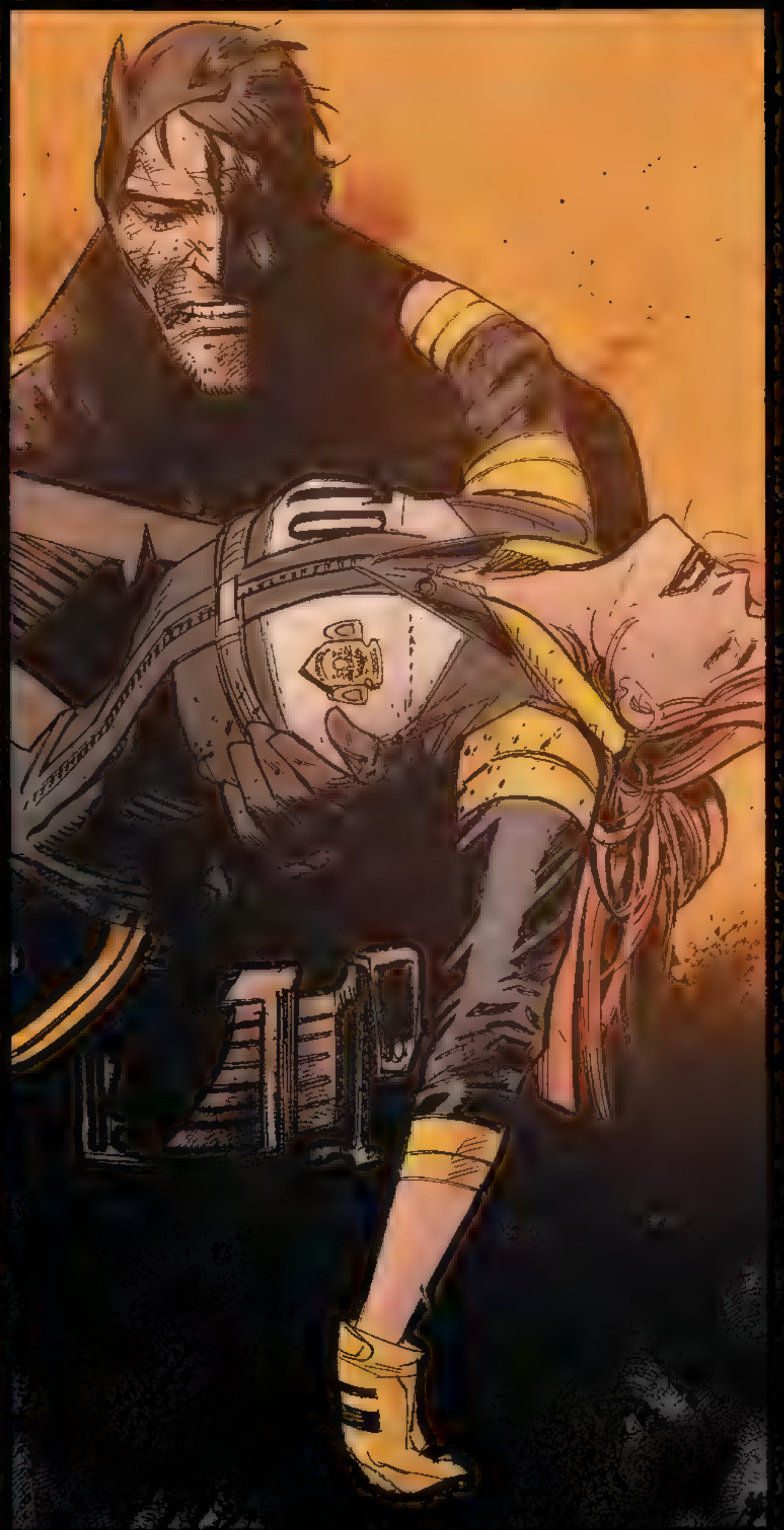


I AGREE.

WHAT?!



THOK



Written & illustrated by

SEAN MURPHY

DC
BLACK
LABEL



"Unlike anything
we've seen before." —Nerdist

BATMAN WHITE KNIGHT

SEAN MURPHY with MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

"Cinematic
and graphic."

—A.V. Club

"Murphy
was truly
born to draw
Batman."

—IGN

"A breakout
hit."

—Syfy Wire

"Holy cow
do you get
your
money's
worth."

—Nerdist

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A CURSE, A BIRTHRIGHT,
AND CENTURIES OF LIES...

THE JOKER IS BACK WITH
A DEVASTATING SECRET
TO SHAKE BATMAN AND
GOTHAM TO THE CORE!

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